クレイモア ワン
CLAYMORE-ONE
EVEN AFTER CAUSING OVER 200 CASUALTIES, THEY CONTINUED TO STAND THEIR GROUND.
THE REASON FOR THEIR FAME ORIGINATES FROM THE "GARDENIA AFFAIR".
THOSE WHO WERE INVOLVED ALL KEPT THEIR MOUTHS SHUT.
OF COURSE THE PUBLIC CRITICIZED THEM HEAVILY FOR IT.
BUT THE WAY THEY CONDUCTED THEIR INTERROGATIONS CAUSED PEOPLE TO LOSE THE COURAGE TO STAND AGAINST THEM.

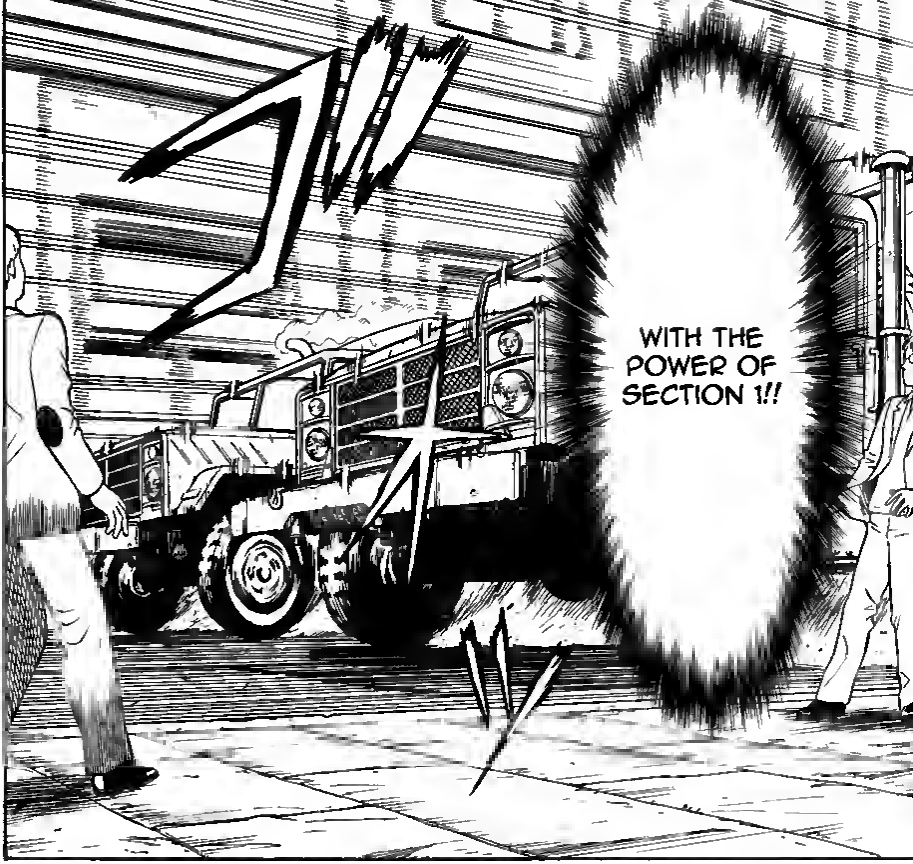
CLAYMORE ONE ISN'T A UNIT MADE TO OPPRESS PEOPLE.
IF YOU THINK BACK ON IT NOW, IT ALMOST SEEMS AS IF THE "GARDENIA INCIDENT" WAS PURPOSELY USED AS A STAGE TO MAKE THEIR REPUTATION KNOWN TO THE WORLD.
IT'S A UNIT DESIGNED TO STRIKE FEAR IN THE HEARTS OF PEOPLE.
THIS IS A STORY OF B SPURYUEL THE "RED CAP AFFAIR".
THIS BOOK SHOULD BE DESTROYED 2 MONTHS AFTER PUBLI- CATION.

THEY'VE OCCUPIED THE SOIR BANK.
IT'S A LARGE BANK THAT WAS FUNDED WITH AN ENOURMOUS AMOUNT OF CASH AFTER THE WAR.
IT'S ABOUT 6 TIMES AS LARGE AS A REGULAR BANK.
HOW MANY OF THEM ARE THERE?
HEAD OF "DOUBLE SHOTEL" CAPTAIN REINBERG

WELL,
ACCORDING TO ONE OF THOSE IN CHARGE OF CAUSING THE ECONOMIC INFLATION,
COMMANDER OF TRI DAGGER
LIEUTENANT DERYL
INCLUDING ALL OF THE PEOPLE IN THE ATTACK, ROUGHLY 30-40 PEOPLE
THEY AREN'T ACTING LIKE ROBBERS. THEIR ACTIONS ARE MORE LIKE THAT OF A MILITIA.
AND HOW MANY GUARDS ARE THERE?
FOUR.
HOWEVER, IT'S LIKELY THAT THEY'VE ALL BEEN KILLED AT THIS POINT.

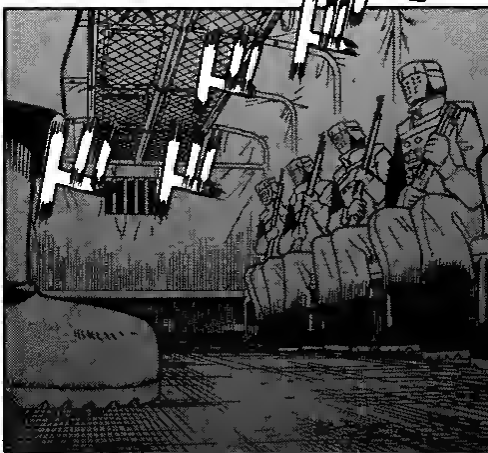
This is a work of fiction and any characters relation to real life people is purely coincidental blah blah blah

JUST FOUR GUARDS FOR A BANK THAT LARGE?
IT'S AS IF THEY DIDN'T CONSIDER THE DANGER THEY MIGHT BE IN AT ALL.
THE PEOPLE THAT ATTENDED THE BALL WERE LIKE THAT TOO.
WE THOUGHT THAT THERE'D BE NO ONE IN THE CAPITAL WHO'D WANT TO MAKE ENEMIES OUT OF US.
WE ALSO THOUGHT THEY WOULDN'T ATTACK THE NOBLES.
COMMANDER OF AXE FORCE
CAPTAIN GORDMAN
THE GOAL OF THIS OPERATION
IS TO RESTORE PUBLIC ORDER.



†第17話 Scare – claw

PANIC-SHREADING CLAW OF MADNESS



WELL, EVEN IF HE DID COME BACK...
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE'LL BE OF ANY USE-
W-WAIT! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
E-EVEN I KNOW JUST HOW SKILLED THE CAPTAIN IS.
BUT AFTER HE GOT THAT SERIOUS WOUND,
HASN'T IT FELT LIKE SOMETHING'S BEEN OFF ABOUT HIM?

HIS SENSE OF DISTANCE, IT'S AS IF...
YOU GET SO SCARED THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN MOVE ONE STEP FORWARD.
AND YET IT SEEMS LIKE IF YOU SHOW EVEN THE SMALLEST INSECURITY HE'LL JUMP RIGHT IN.
HE'S A KNIFE USER WHO CAN ELIMINATE THAT SENSE OF DISTANCE.
CAN HE SURVIVE IN THE CURRENT CLAYMORE ONE?

SENSE OF DISTANCE?
カキン
IS THAT OF A CRAZED DOG.
THAT MAN'S TRUE NATURE

HE SIMPLY FIGHTS LIKE A MADMAN.
HE DOESN'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT A "SENSE OF DISTANCE" OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

ゴッチ
Ow
Ah
I got stabbed

Really?
HEY, I THINK I HEARD A SCREAM JUST NOW.

HM?

COULD THERE STILL BE SOME BANK EMPLOYEES HIDING AROUND HERE?
IT'S A LARGE BANK...

IT'S FINE IF WE LOSE ONE OR TWO.
WELL, WE KNOW FOR SURE THAT WE HAVE AT LEAST THIS MANY HOSTAGES.

IT'S BECAUSE OF THE GARDENIA AFFAIR.
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?

HOSTAGES HUH ..?

THEN SECTION 1 DID A FORCED SEARCH OF THE PLACE.
THEY ALL USED TO GATHER AT GARDENIA STREET.
A BUNCH OF BROKE SOLDIERS STARTED SELLING THEIR WEAPONS ON THE BLACK MARKET, WHICH GAVE BIRTH TO A KIND OF MAFIA

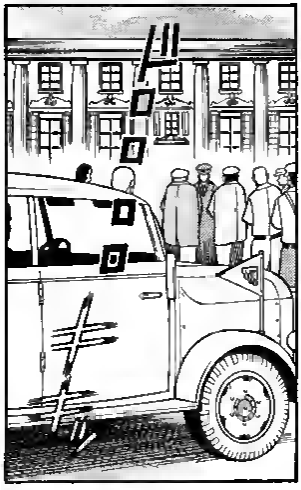
IT WAS A TERRIBLE DISASTER THAT LEFT OVER 200 PEOPLE DEAD
THE RESULTING GUNFIGHT BETWEN THEM TURNED THE WHOLE STREET INTO A WAR ZONE
DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT IT
TOOK REGULAR PEOPLE HOSTAGE
THE UNIT AT THAT TIME ALSO
IS THE MANAGER OF ECONOMICS!
IT'S WHY THE PERSON WE WANT TO NEGOTIATE WITH
We demand talks with Hoost!

WAS ABLE TO OPPOSE THE ARMY AND GET PREVIOUS RIOTERS ABSOLVED OF ALL THEIR CRIMES.
RUMOR HAS IT THAT THE NEW MANAGER OF ECONOMICS, LORD HOOST,
IF WE CAN JUST GET HOOST TO COME TO THE NEGOTIATION POINT,
WE CAN GET THE MILITARY TO STAY OUT OF THIS AND NEGOTIATE WITH THE COUNTRY DIRECTLY
OUR REFORMS WILL...!!

BUT ARE THE HOSTAGES SAFE?!
IT SEEMS LIKE THE FIRST SHOTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN FIRED.
WHY AREN'T YOU GUYS BREAKING IN!
ガヤ
ガヤ
ガヤ

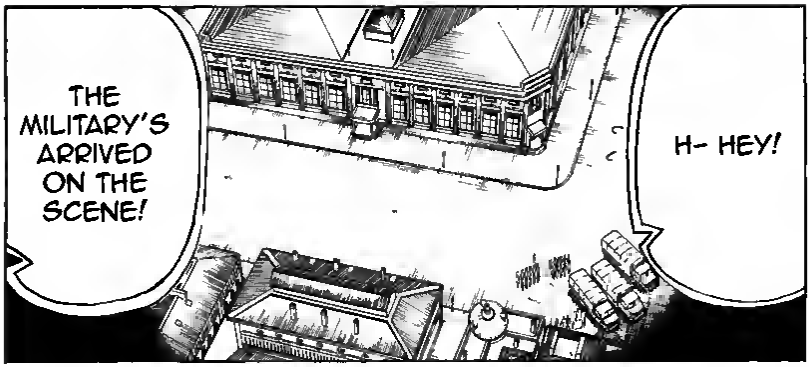
It was just a stray bullet!
YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE! DO YOU WANT TO DIE?!
SHUT UP, YOU DAMNED REPORTERS!

I'LL LET YOU HANDLE THE REPORT.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH MR. POLICE-MAN.
シャリッ



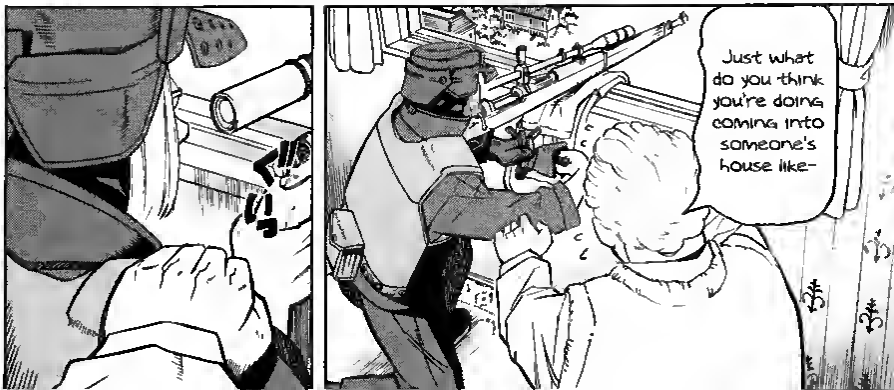
THE REPORT, PLEASE.
Y- YOU ARE...!
T- THE CULPRITS WANT TO NEGOTIATE WITH MARQUESS HOOST.
"IF YOU CAN DO THAT, WE'LL COMPLY WITH ALL OF YOUR DEMANDS" IS WHAT THEY SAID.
Ummm, Since you came here does that mean
YES. AS OF NOW, THE POLICE AND FIRE FIGHTERS FROM THIS DISTRICT

OF SECTION ONE.
ARE UNDER THE COMMAND


THE MILITARY'S ARRIVED ON THE SCENE!
H- HEY!

But..
Dear!
Staring like that is rude!
W- Who are you people?!
ドカドカ
EEK!
IMPERIAL ARMY SECTION ONE.
WE ARE REQUISITIONING THIS BUILDING TO SERVE US DURING OUR OPERATIONS.

ACK!
SNIPER AT POINT B CONFIRMED!
CONFIRMED


Just what do you think you're doing coming into someone's house like-

DON'T YOU DARE
TRY AND LOOK.
OUR MASKS ARE A SYMBOL OF OUR RANK.
IN ORDER TO BE SEEN AS A UNIT, AND NOT INDIVIDUALS, WE ARE NOT TO TAKE THEM OFF.
JUST LIKE A ROBBER'S MASK...
WE USE THEM TO PREVENT OUR IDENTITIES FROM BEING DISCOVERED,
AND SO WE CAN DO TERRIBLE THINGS AND STILL BE SEEN AS PERFECTLY CALM.

IS TAKEN BY ONE MAN:
THAT'S RIGHT... ALL OF THE HATRED DIRECTED TOWARDS US BECAUSE OF OUR OPERATIONS
CAPTAIN SNUBNOSE!!
CLAYMORE ONE'S COMMANDER

WHERE ARE THE TANKS?
WE WON'T BE USING ANY.
WE'LL FIGHT OUR WAY IN USING JUST OUR FISTS.
WE'LL CARVE THIS DISPLAY OF OUR STRENGTH INTO THE HEARTS OF THE CITIZENS!
ARE YOU GUYS PLANNING ON BREAKING IN?!
IF YOU ANGER THE CRIMINALS, THE HOSTAGES MIGHT...
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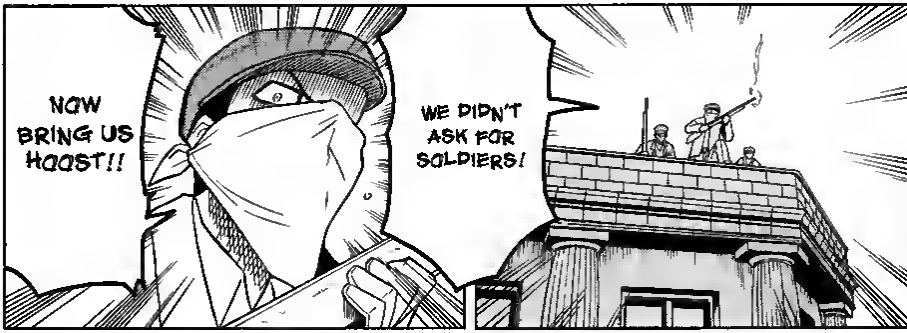
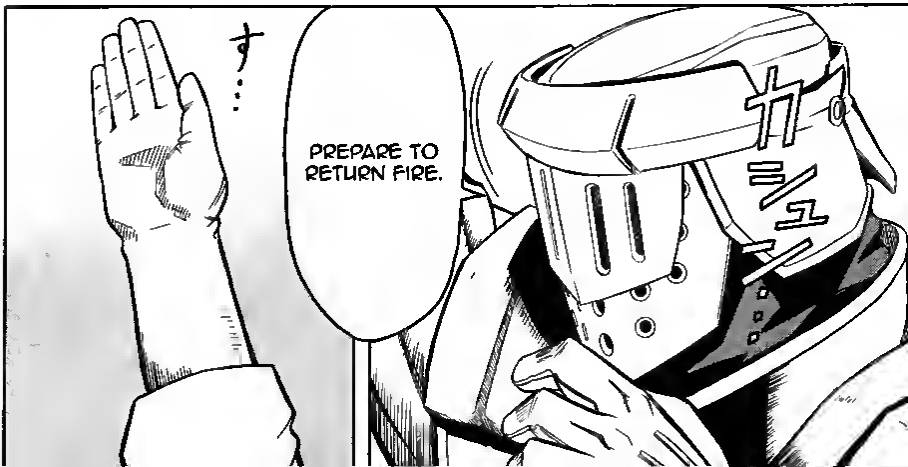
THEY'RE TARGETTING THIS PLACE!
DID THEY SHOOT?!

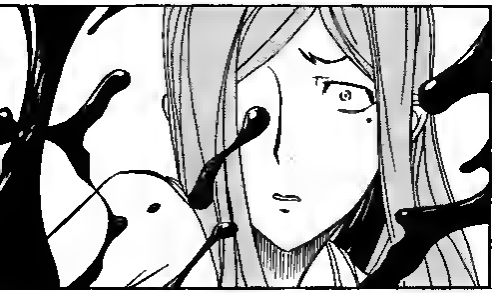

NOW BRING US HOOST!!
WE DIDN'T ASK FOR SOLDIERS!


す…
PREPARE TO RETURN FIRE.
カシュッ

EXTERMINATE THEM!
HUH?
KUH... DAMN YOU!
EXTER-MINAT-ING

EXTERMINATING!

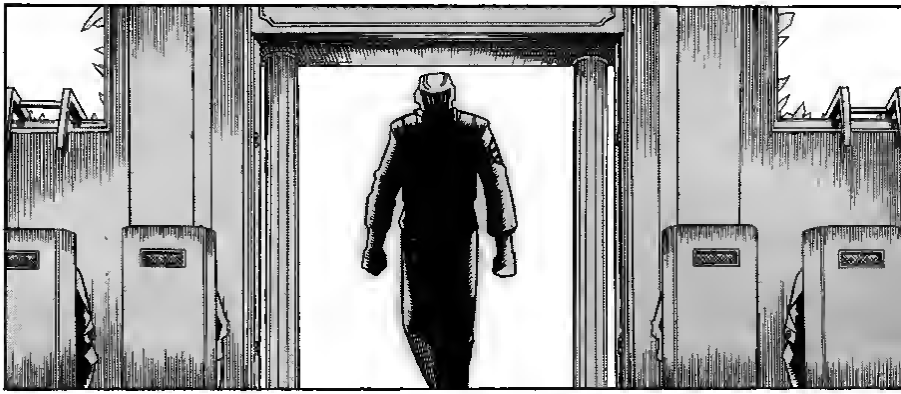
WE HAVE HOS-TAGES-
WHAP!
THE HOS-TAGES!
THESE GUYS-

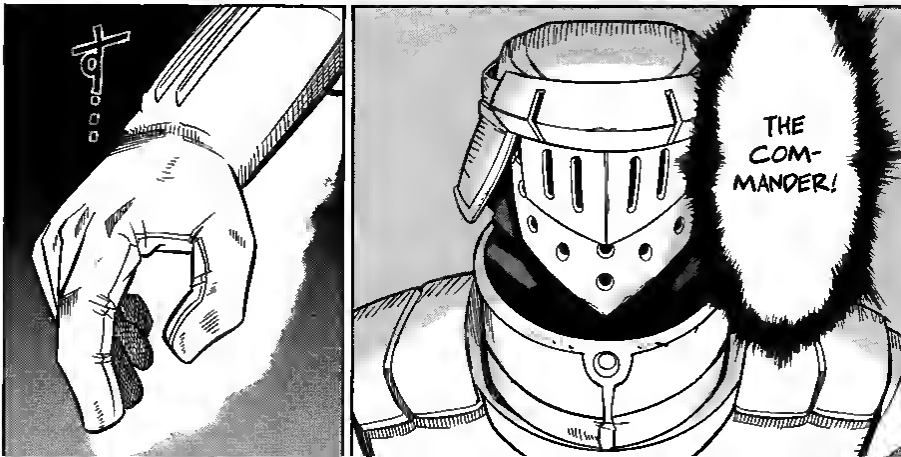


DIDN'T COME HERE TO SAVE US...

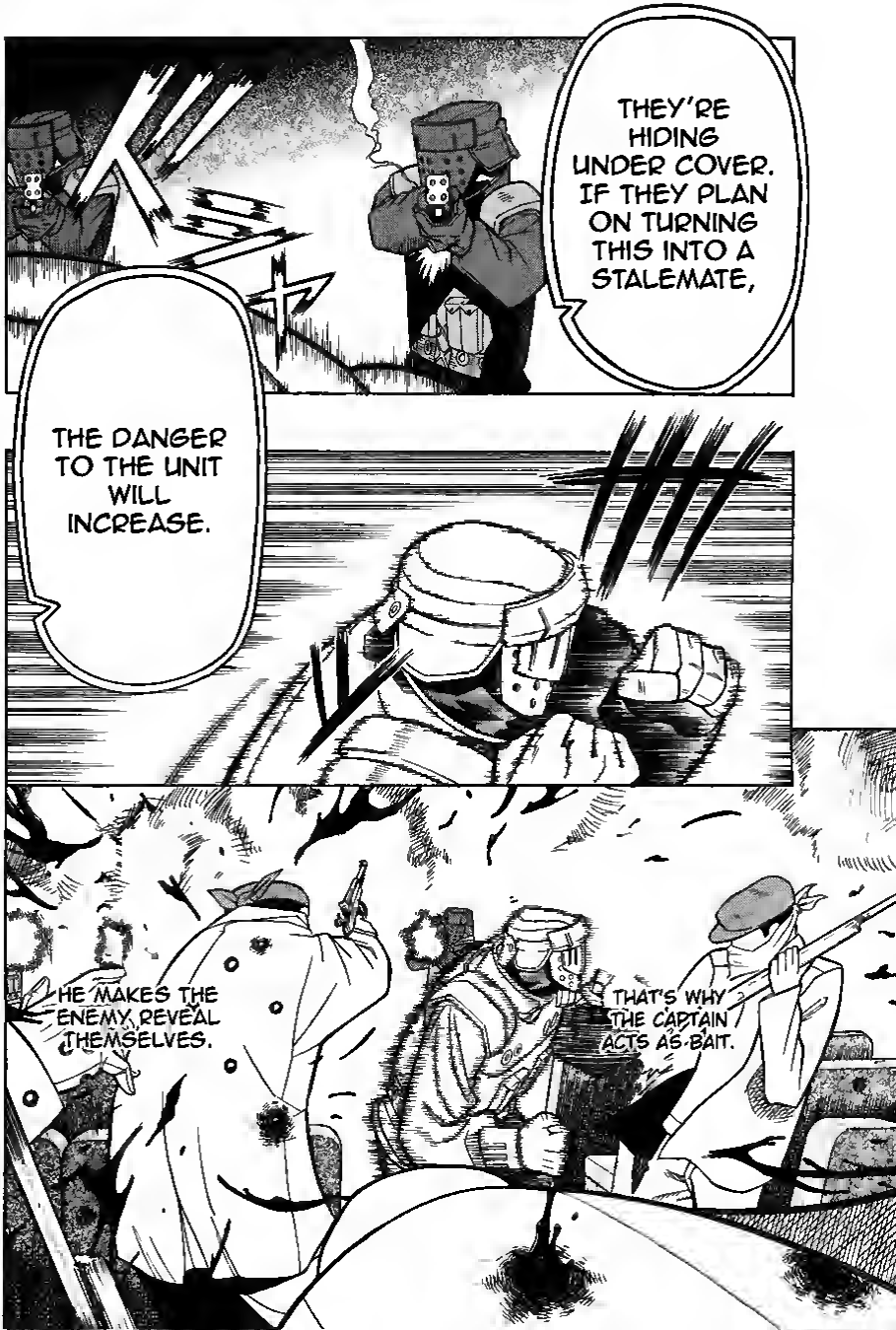
THESE PEOPLE...

CALM DOWN EVERYONE TAKE COVER!
THEY CAME TO KILL US!




THE COM-MANDER!

キュ
Is he planning on fighting us with his fists?!
What's with that guy?
WHA...
Perfect! If I can just take out their commander...
WAIT-
ダッ!


THEY'RE HIDING UNDER COVER. IF THEY PLAN ON TURNING THIS INTO A STALEMATE,
THE DANGER TO THE UNIT WILL INCREASE.
HE MAKES THE ENEMY REVEAL THEMSELVES.
THAT'S WHY THE CAPTAIN ACTS AS BAIT.

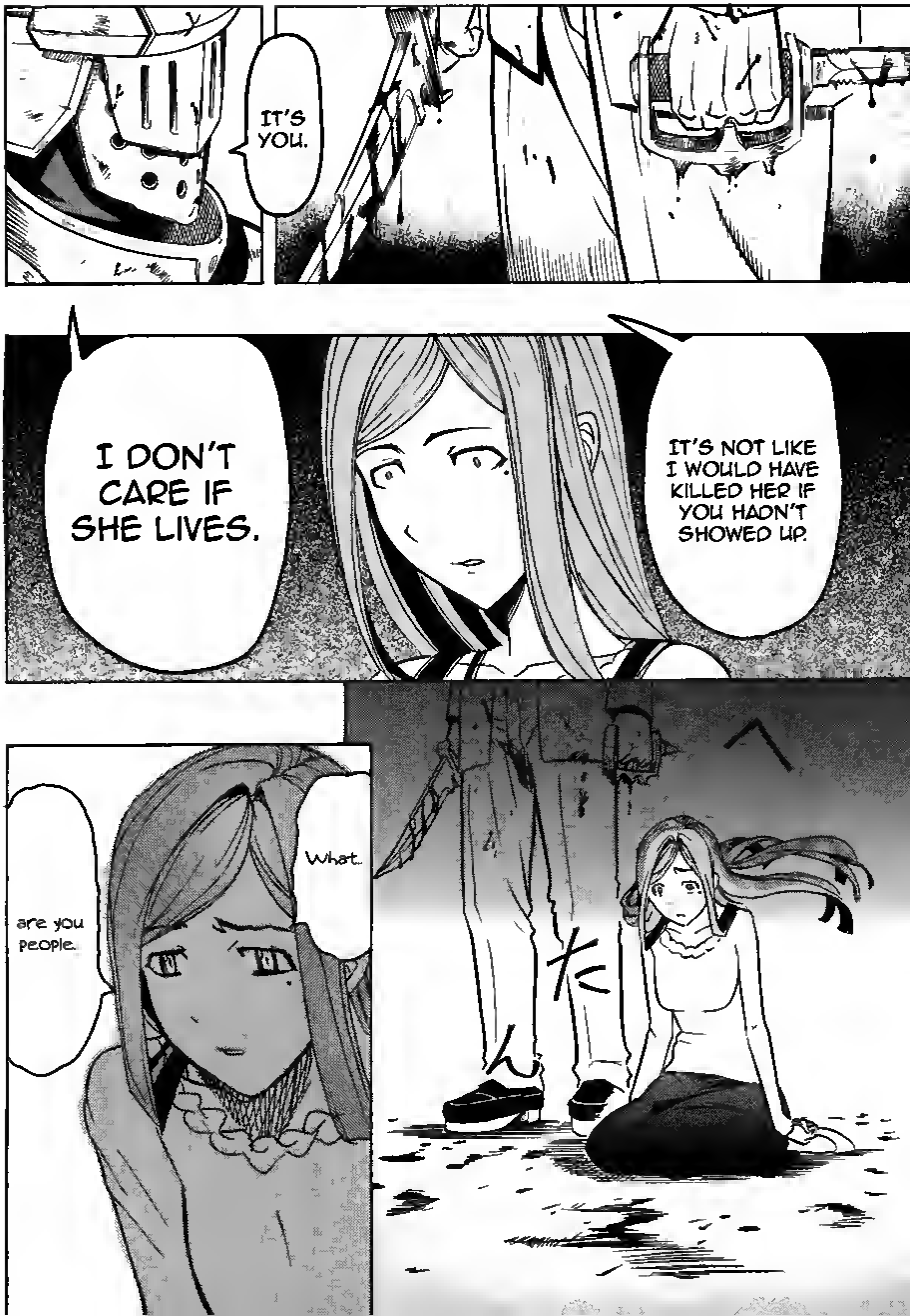
AS LONG AS
WE JUST KEEP SHOOTING THEM AS THEY COME OUT, IT'LL BE FINE.
THE CAPTAIN'S FISTS ARE
WE SAY HE'S JUST BAIT, BUT

CAPABLE OF KILLING OTHERS...
HOOST.
WHY ISN'T HE COMING TO NEGOTIATE?!
WHERE'S HOOST?!

HE SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN OUR DEMANDS BY NOW.
THERE'S NO POINT IN TAKING A HOSTAGE.
BANG
BANG

NOO
OOO
OOO
OOO
!!

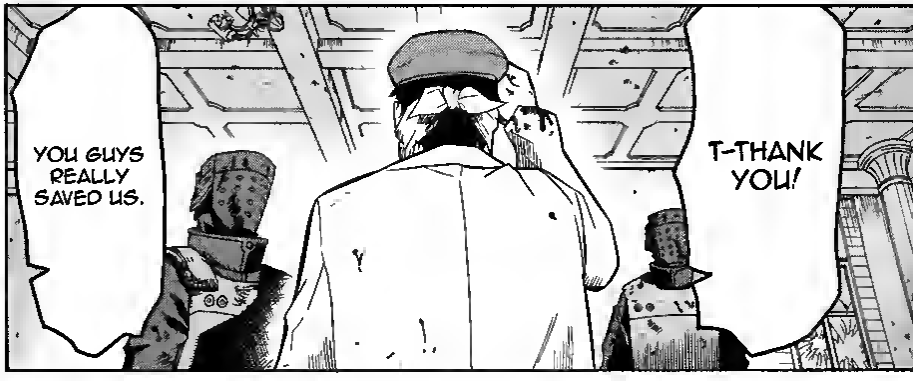
CREATING MORE CORPSES THAN NECESSARY WOULD BE A REGRETTABLE THING TO DO.
MY APOLOGIES, CAPTAIN.

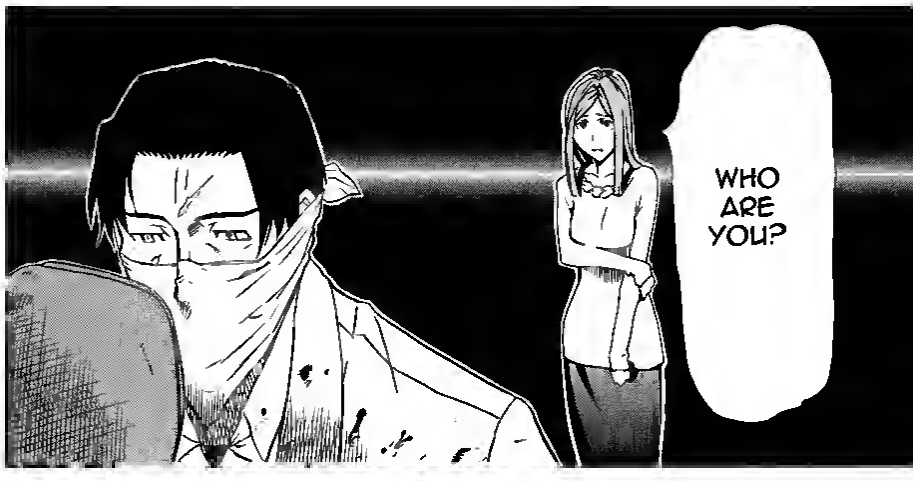

IT'S YOU.
I DON'T CARE IF SHE LIVES.
IT'S NOT LIKE I WOULD HAVE KILLED HER IF YOU HADN'T SHOWED UP.
What.
are you people.

SOMETHING LIKE THIS
SOMETHING LIKE THIS
IS COMPLETELY INHUMANE!
YOUR WAY OF DOING THINGS
THAT'S WHAT CLAYMORE ONE IS.

THAT VOICE...

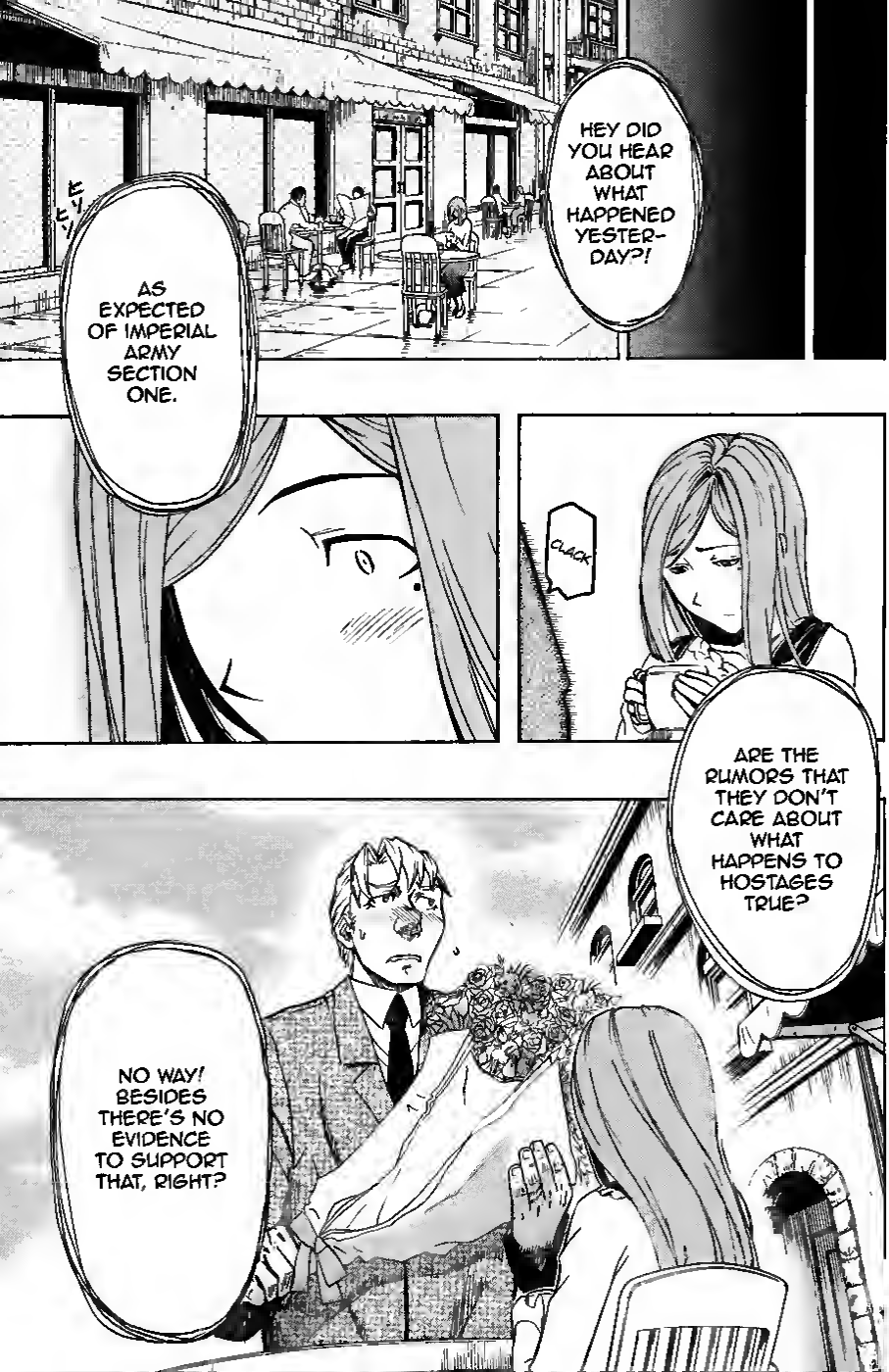
THAT'S
DON'T SHOOT!
THE CHIEF!


YOU GUYS REALLY SAVED US.
T-THANK YOU!


WHO ARE YOU?

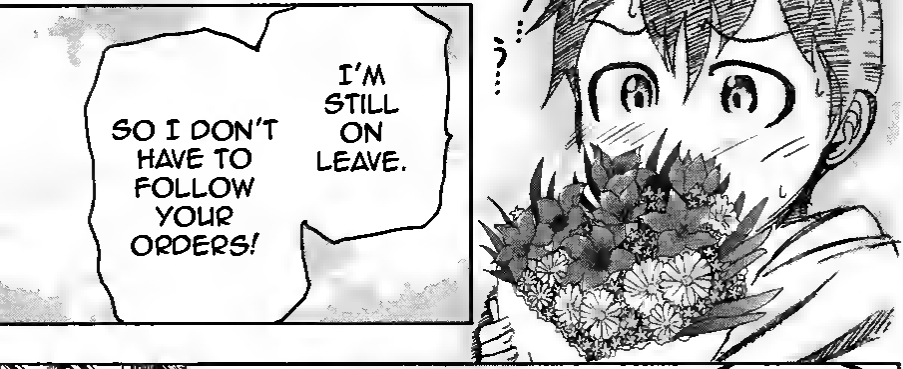
I'M SORRY FOR CALLING YOU INHUMANE.
THAT WAS ALL JUST NECESSARY TO SAVE US RIGHT?
BECAUSE...
YOU ARE...
SOMEONE
WHO UNDERSTANDS THE VALUE OF FLOWERS.

THERE'S NO NEED TO TRY AND UNDERSTAND WHO I AM.
ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW...
IS THAT CLAYMORE ONE IS A NAME TO BE FEARED.
...
!
!


HEY DID YOU HEAR ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED YESTER-DAY?!
HEY!
AS EXPECTED OF IMPERIAL ARMY SECTION ONE.
CLACK
ARE THE RUMORS THAT THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO HOSTAGES TRUE?
NO WAY! BESIDES THERE'S NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THAT, RIGHT?

IN THE END, THE ADULTERER HAS TO GIVE HIS WOMAN BACK.
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I JUST GOT BORED ON MY DAY OFF, IS ALL

THEY'VE ALREADY WILTED.
GO THROW THEM AWAY SOMEWHERE.
Chief's orders!
CHIEF?!
WHA-
THIS


I'M STILL ON LEAVE.
SO I DON'T HAVE TO FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS!

I'm definitely not throwing them away!
#17/END

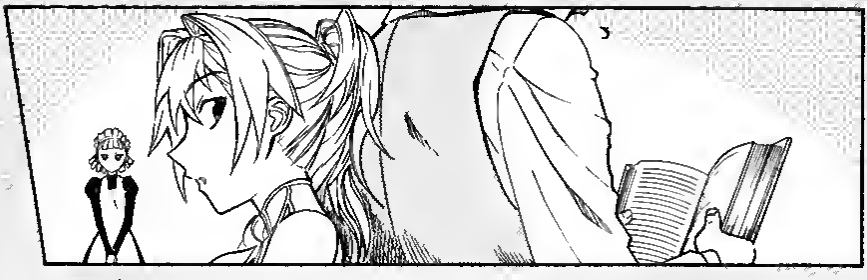
KUUDERE

CREDITS

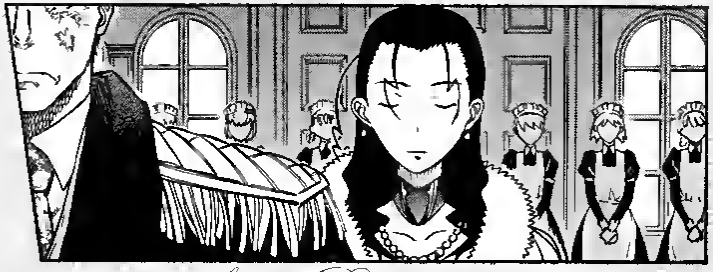
TL	NINGEN
TLC	AYASE
TYPESETTER	CRUX
CLEANER	HARTMANN
QC	HARTMANN

KUUDERE-SCANS!

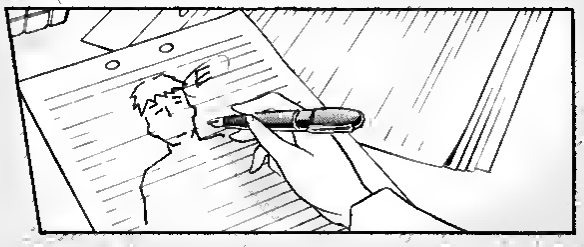
COME VISIT US AT KUUDERE.COM



1 *Elis Ravens*



2 *Solice Branbard*



3

Interval

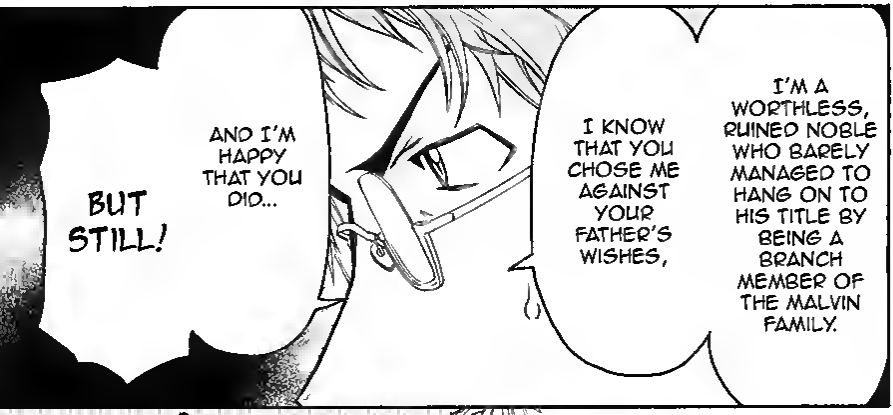
On the night of that ball...

OUTSKIRTS OF THE CAPITAL, GOVERNMENT APARTMENTS
I'M BACK~
Aaah, I'm so tired
MILADY, YOUR HUSBAND HAS BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
H-
Hey, welcome home. You got back pretty late.
ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT DIVISON, 5TH RANK OFFICE:
ROGER RAVENS

SOMEHOW THE CARRIAGE MANAGED TO BREAK ON THE WAY.
YEAH, IT WAS REALLY ANNOYING.
!
MEN SURE ARE A PAIN.
AND OF COURSE ALL THE NOBLEMEN HAD TO START CRYING "I'LL SEND FOR ANOTHER ONE!" "NO, LET ME!"
COME TO THINK OF IT...
はは～ん…

When I was chatting with this VERY handsome man over there,
You started shaking~
.....!
.....
ELIS...
Yeeeeees? What is it? Could it be that you're actually jealous-
MAYBE WE REALLY SHOULD...
GET DIVORCED.

YOU SHOULD BE WITH A FAR MORE SPLENDID MAN!
RATHER THAN A PLAIN, BORING MAN LIKE ME,


BUT STILL!
AND I'M HAPPY THAT YOU DID...
I KNOW THAT YOU CHOSE ME AGAINST YOUR FATHER'S WISHES,
I'M A WORTHLESS, RUINED NOBLE WHO BARELY MANAGED TO HANG ON TO HIS TITLE BY BEING A BRANCH MEMBER OF THE MALVIN FAMILY.

IT'LL BE FINE!
YOU'RE SO CHARMING THAT NOT EVEN A HISTORY OF DIVORCE WILL-
SIGH
YOU'RE NOT THE KIND OF WOMAN WHO SHOULD SPEND HER LIFE IN A RUN DOWN APARTMENT LIKE THIS!
SHUT UP, YOU TWO!!
ｶﾞﾝｯ

But I don't want that...
ヒック ヒック
ぽろ ぽろ
SOB
SOB
*UWAAAAAAAAAA
NOOOOOOO!!!
I ONLY WANT YOU, ROGER!
I'M FINE WITH THIS APART-MENT!
I...
I...
I...
I LOVE YOU TOO!

ELIS!
ROGER!
Elis!
Roger!
WE GET IT. YOU TWO REALLY LIKE EACH OTHER THAT MUCH. PLEASE, GET A GRIP.
WOULDN'T IT BE EASIER TO JUST MAKE UP WITH A KISS?
SIGH WHAT AN ANNOYING COUPLE...
Y-Yeah! It's still too early for that...
Th-That's a bit...
NEXT!

BRANBARD MANSION
I'm back!
WELCOME HOME, DEAR.
Oh! You just got back too, huh?
COMMANDER OF THE 8TH TANK REGIMENT
CAPTAIN MICHAEL BRANBARD

Yep! You could tell?!
YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD TODAY.
Looks like it's my loss.
Well...
IN TODAY'S MOCK BATTLE,
I BEAT THAT IMPUDENT STAFF OFFICER FOR THE FIRST TIME!
THIS CALLS FOR A CELE-BRATION!!
A BATTLE-FIELD.
JUST LIKE
And how was the ball?

NO.
IF YOU SAID IT'S LIKE A BATTLEFIELD, THEN IT MUST HAVE REALLY BEEN ONE.
.....
Surely you must be exaggerating Milday hohoho~
AN UNREFINED MAN SUCH AS MYSELF HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING ABOUT THE PERILS OF A BALL...
GOOD JOB RETURNING HOME ALIVE.
REWARD?
ALRIGHT! LET'S REWARD OUR-SELVES!
Even the master is getting into it hohoho~

RETURNING ALIVE IS A GREAT HONOR FOR US.
WE ARE OF THE BRANBARD FAMILY
BUT WE MUST UPHOLD THE FAMILY VALUES!
THAT IS A NOBLE ATTITUDE.
LIKE ME, YOU ARE PREPARED FOR DEATH.
YOU ARE
MY WOMAN.
YOU STILL HOLD THE VALUES OF THE MALVIN FAMILY, BUT
YOU'RE A WOMAN OF THE BRANBARD FAMILY... NO,

DO YOU MIND WHAT YOUR REWARD IS?
.....
A first class warhorse? An antique suit of armor?!
Wahahaha! I'm good with anything!
WELL THEN ...

HOW ABOUT
I GIVE YOU A CHILD
しゃる
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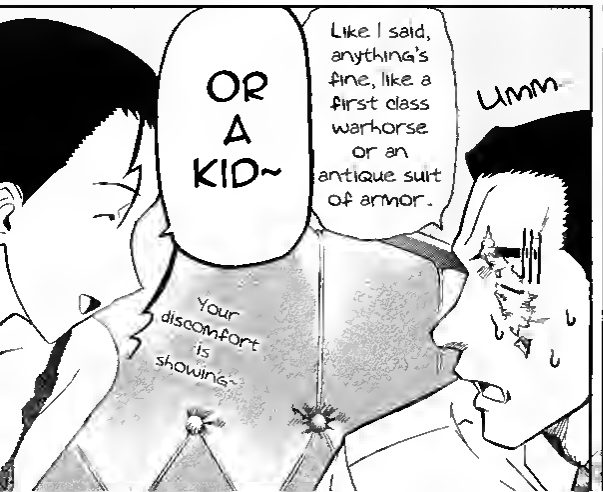
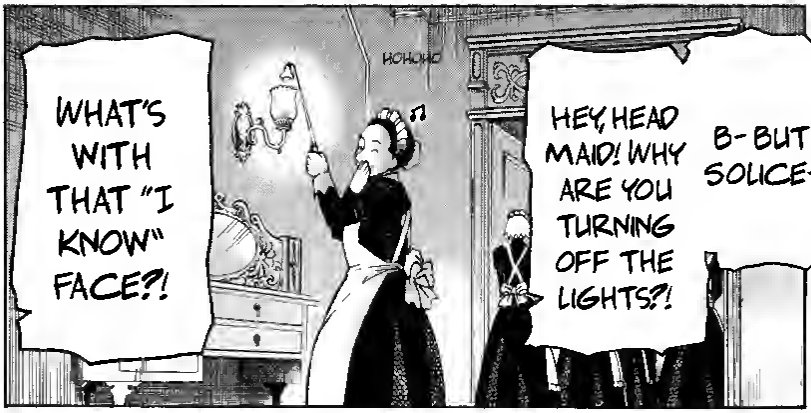
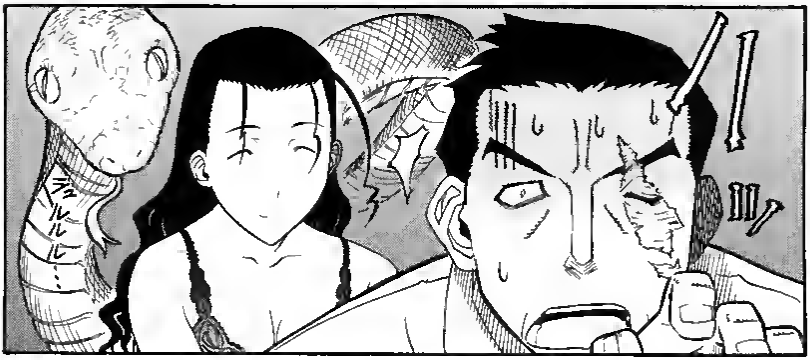

Like I said, anything's fine, like a first class warhorse or an antique suit of armor.
Umm
OR A KID~
Your discomfort is showing~


HOHOHO
WHAT'S WITH THAT "I KNOW" FACE?!
HEY, HEAD MAID! WHY ARE YOU TURNING OFF THE LIGHTS?!
B-BUT SOLICE-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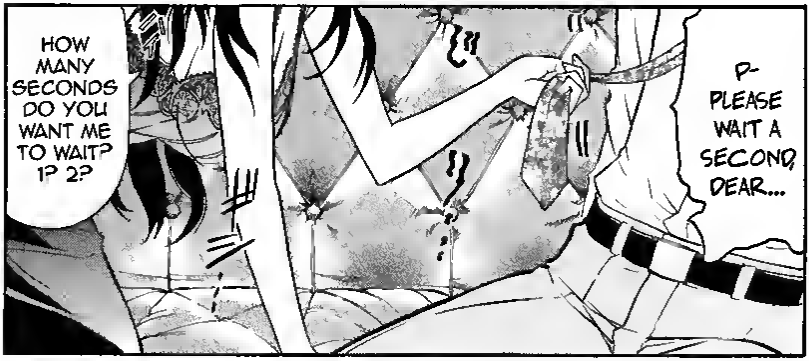
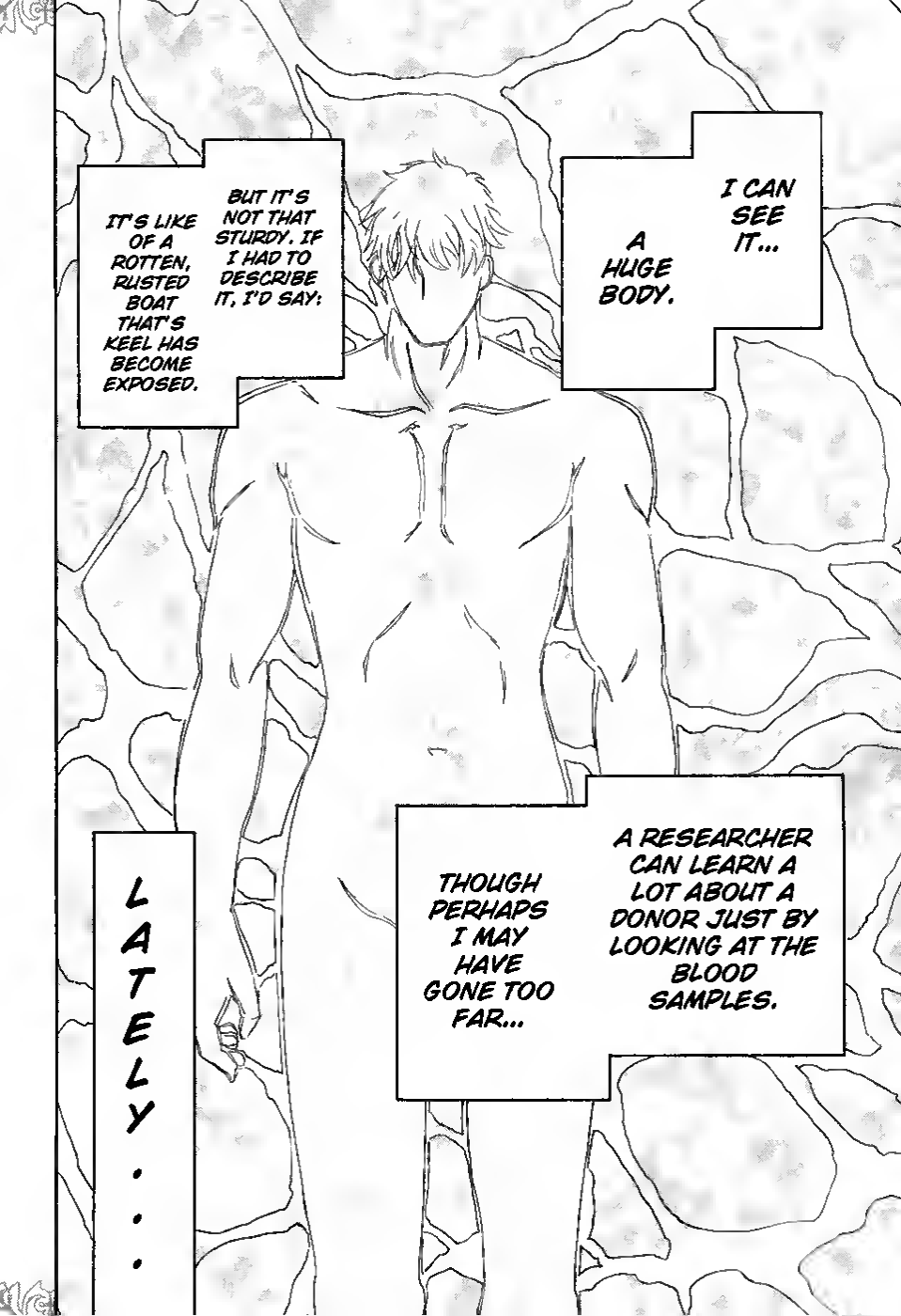

HOW MANY SECONDS DO YOU WANT ME TO WAIT? 1? 2?
P-PLEASE WAIT A SECOND, DEAR...

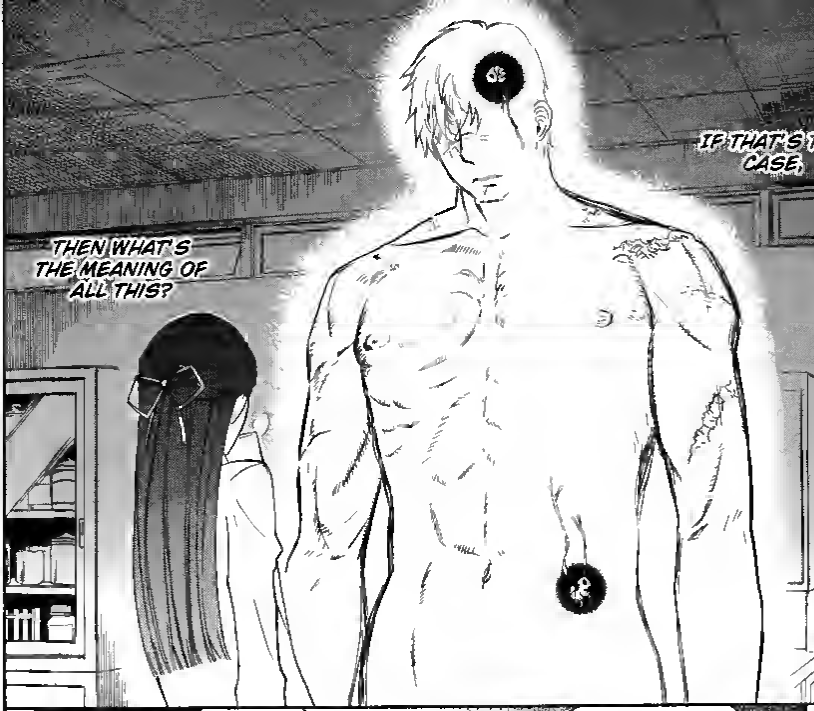
I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY BEATEN HIM BEFORE!
I WANT TONIGHT TO BE A VICTORY CELEBRATION!
WHY... WHY...
THE FIRST TIME I BEAT THAT STAFF OFFICER!! THIS SHOULD BE A DAY OF COMMEMORATION.
DOES THIS HAVE TO TURN INTO MY LOSS?!
Hohoho~ Oh Master~
Chitter Chatter
NEXT

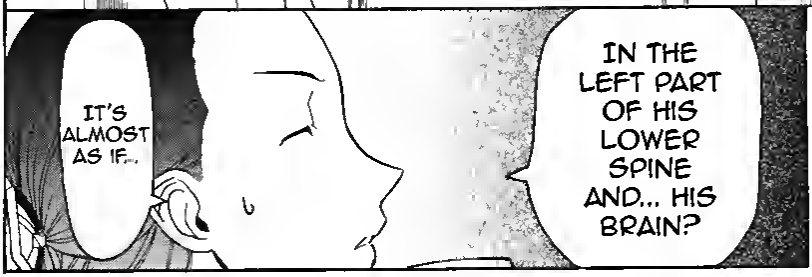
FOR AWHILE NOW, THE AMOUNT OF WORK I'VE BEEN GETTING
HAS BEEN REGULARLY INCREASING.
トン トン
EVERY NOW AND THEN, THE HEAD RESEARCHER BRINGS BACK
901-E SPECIMEN SAMPLES FOR INSPECTION.
ガタン
IT APPEARS THAT THE HEAD RESEARCHER
DIDN'T GET ANY INFORMATION FROM THE DATA PRODUCED BY THE FIRST RESEARCH GROUP.

THE PERSON WHO THIS SAMPLE CAME FROM...
コポ
コポ
コポ
NUMBER E
WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS HE...?
THAT'S THE REASON WHY I'M NOT ALLOWED TO KNOW WHO NUMBER E IS.
HOWEVER...
"IF YOU HAVE ANY PRECONCEIVED IDEAS OF WHAT TO EXPECT, YOU'LL MISS OUT ON THE SUBTLE CHANGES."

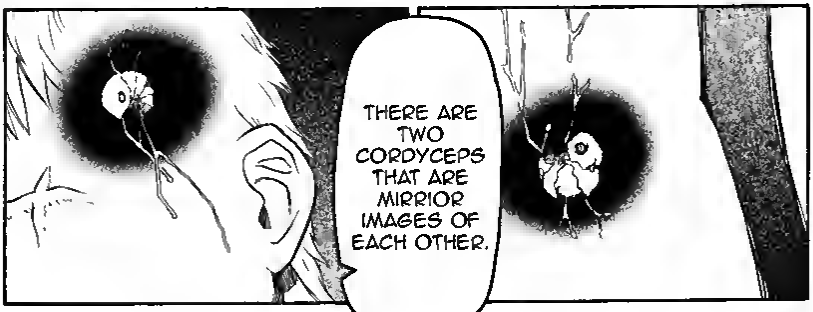

I CAN SEE IT...
A HUGE BODY.
BUT IT'S NOT THAT STURDY. IF I HAD TO DESCRIBE IT, I'D SAY:
IT'S LIKE OF A ROTTEN, RUSTED BOAT THAT'S KEEL HAS BECOME EXPOSED.
A RESEARCHER CAN LEARN A LOT ABOUT A DONOR JUST BY LOOKING AT THE BLOOD SAMPLES.
THOUGH PERHAPS I MAY HAVE GONE TOO FAR...
LATELY...

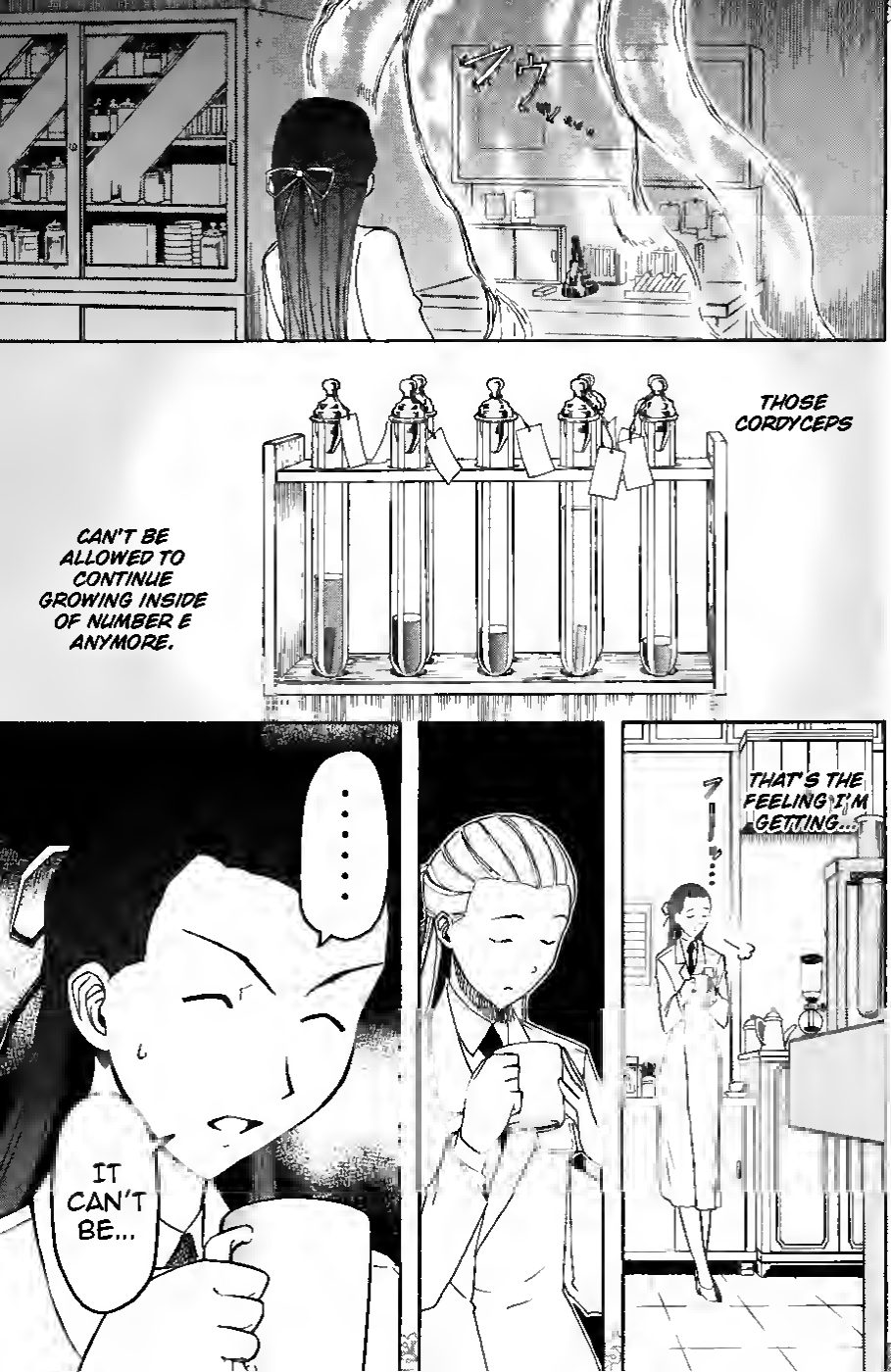
IT'S GOTTEN TO THE POINT WHERE I CAN EVEN IMAGINE WHAT KIND OF FACE NUMBER E MIGHT HAVE.
AND THIS VISUALIZATION KEEPS GETTING STRONGER...
I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT I'M SURE HAVING PRECONCEIVED IDEAS AND THESE DELUSIONS ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.
THE HEAD RESEARCHER JUST SAID "AS EXPECTED, YOU'RE A SCRIPTER" AND LAUGHED.
IS ONLY SPEAKING THIS ONE TRUTH.
BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE...
IN OTHER WORDS, THE PART OF ME THAT IS HAVING THESE DELUSIONS "THE EXAMINER"

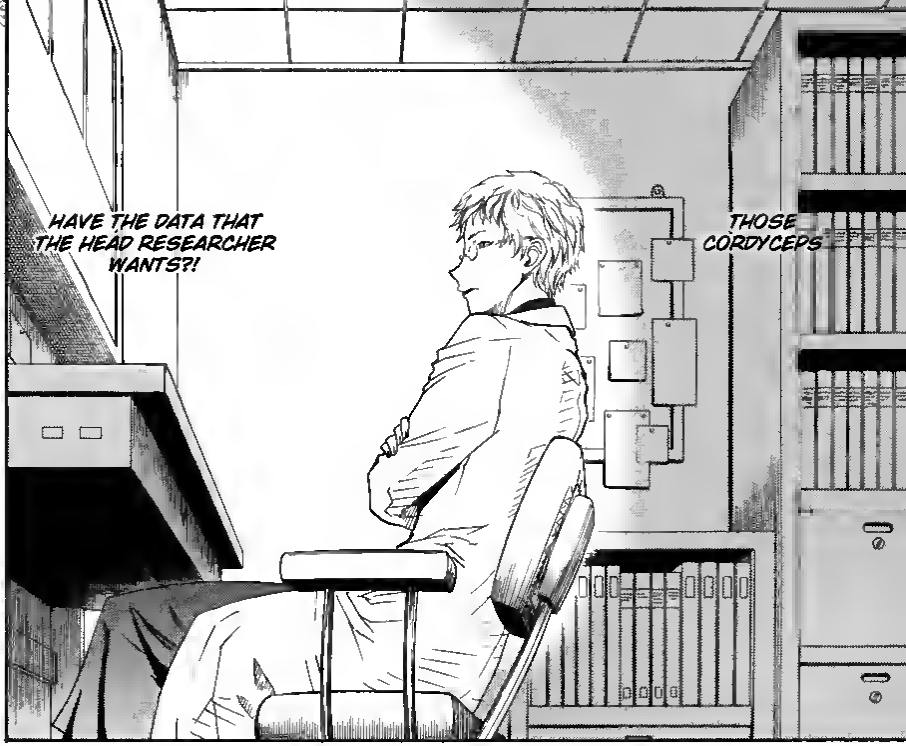




TL NOTE CORDYCEPS IS A TYPE OF FUNGI




ウウ
THOSE CORDYCEPS
CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE GROWING INSIDE OF NUMBER E ANYMORE.
THAT'S THE FEELING I'M GETTING...
IT CAN'T BE...


HAVE THE DATA THAT THE HEAD RESEARCHER WANTS?!
THOSE CORDYCEPS

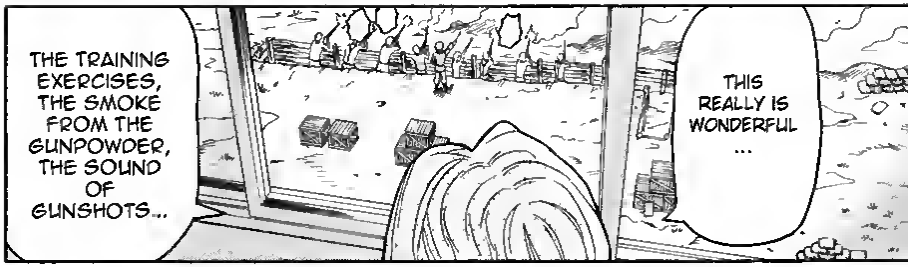
MA'AM...?
IS THIS RIGHT? SHOULD I BLINDLY KEEP BELIEVING IN YOU,
NEXT

PumpkinScissors

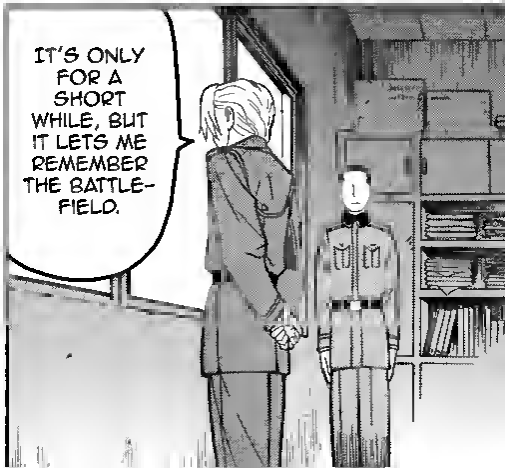
PumpkinScissors

PRE-
PARE
TO
FIRE
THE
SECOND
VOLLEY!
CLATTER
*CLAT-
TER
CLAT-
TER*
HIT
CRACK
GIII...!

NUMBER 48!
DON'T JUST CARELESSLY PUT YOUR FINGER ON THE TRIGGER!
YOU NEED TO BE DISCIPLINED FOR THAT!


THE TRAINING EXERCISES, THE SMOKE FROM THE GUNPOWDER, THE SOUND OF GUNSHOTS...
THIS REALLY IS WONDERFUL ...

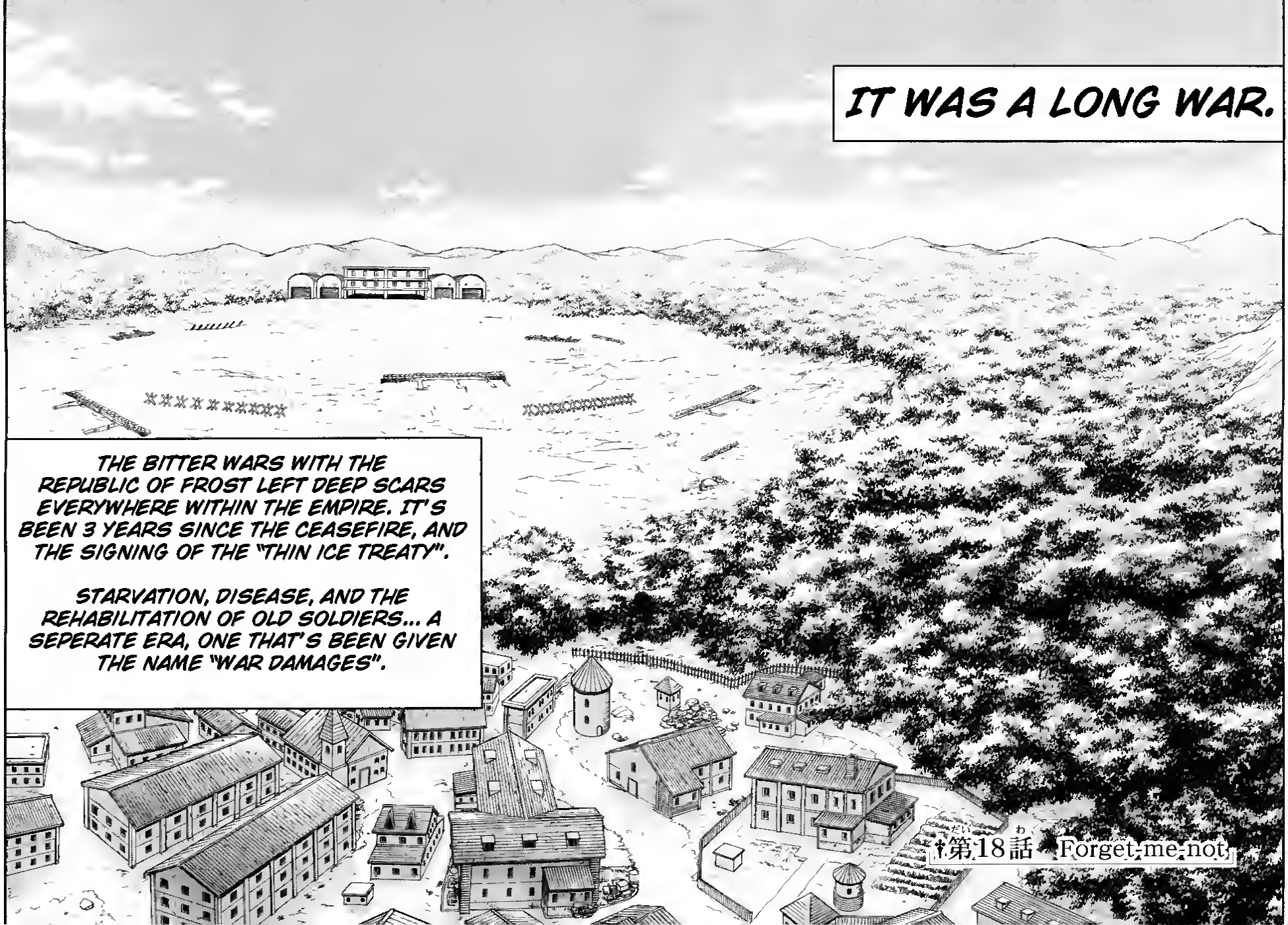
BUT NOW...
WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF AMMUNI-TION.


IT'S ONLY FOR A SHORT WHILE, BUT IT LETS ME REMEMBER THE BATTLE-FIELD.

ALRIGHT THEN, ONE MONTH FROM NOW...
SO I NEED TO MODERATE ITS USAGE, HUH?
NEXT WE'RE DOING TANK EXERCISES!
WE WILL CARRY OUT OUR PLAN!!
DISPERSE ALONG THE TANK'S PATH!
CHARGE FORWARD WITH THE TANK!

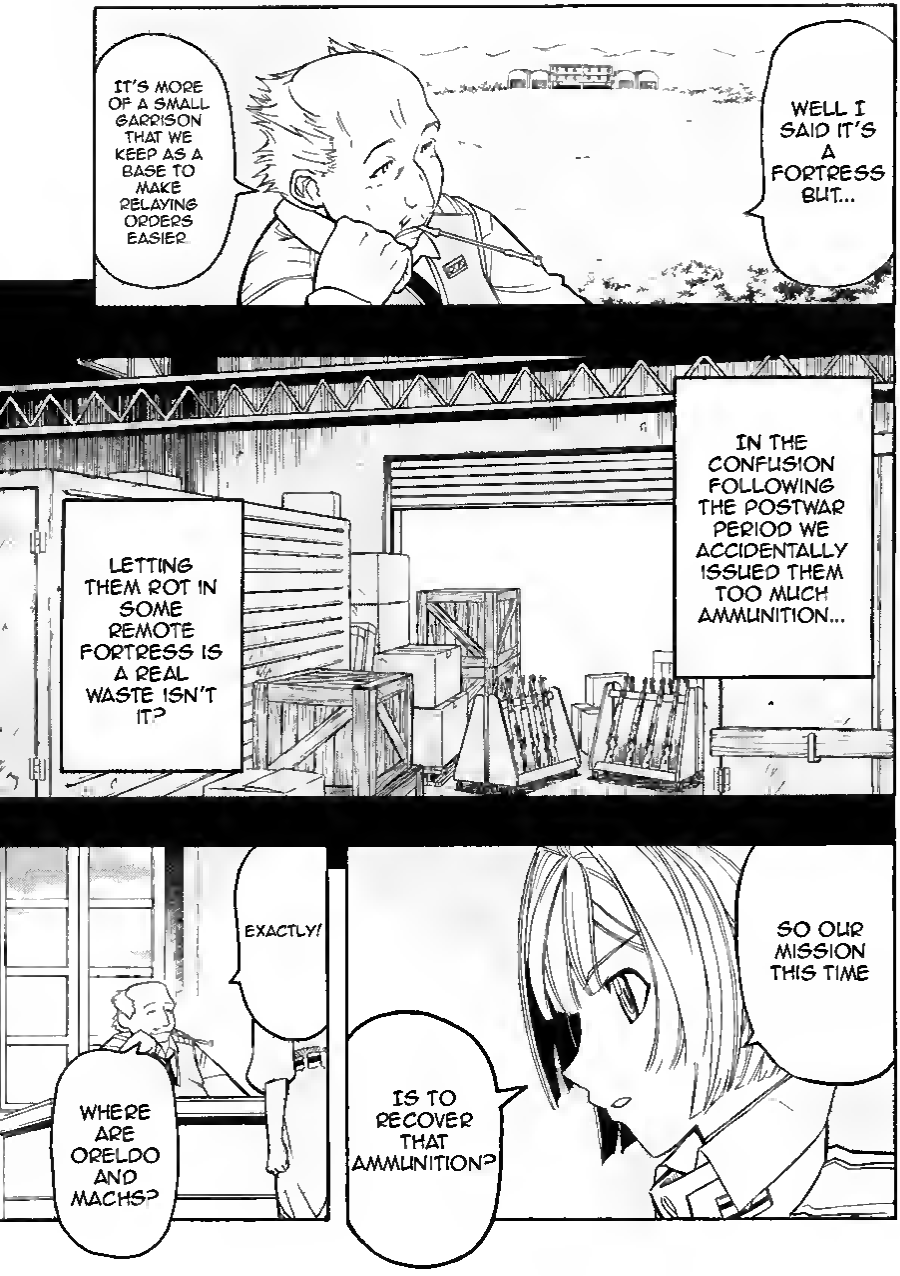
CHAAAAAARGE!
EEK!
GYAAAAAA!!!
IT'S COMING!
AH-
THUD-THUD-

BI-
!
BIG
BRO-


IT WAS A LONG WAR.
THE BITTER WARS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF FROST LEFT DEEP SCARS EVERYWHERE WITHIN THE EMPIRE. IT'S BEEN 3 YEARS SINCE THE CEASEFIRE, AND THE SIGNING OF THE "THIN ICE TREATY".
STARVATION, DISEASE, AND THE REHABILITATION OF OLD SOLDIERS... A SEPERATE ERA, ONE THAT'S BEEN GIVEN THE NAME "WAR DAMAGES".

第18話 Forget-me-not

IMPERIAL ARMY INFORMATION OFFICE CENTRAL BUREAU SECTION 3
AT BELTA FORTRESS?
COMMANDER OF THE OPERATING FORCES
SECOND LIEUTENANT ALICE L. MALVIN


IT'S MORE OF A SMALL GARRISON THAT WE KEEP AS A BASE TO MAKE RELAYING ORDERS EASIER
WELL I SAID IT'S A FORTRESS BUT...
LETTING THEM ROT IN SOME REMOTE FORTRESS IS A REAL WASTE ISN'T IT?
IN THE CONFUSION FOLLOWING THE POSTWAR PERIOD WE ACCIDENTALLY ISSUED THEM TOO MUCH AMMUNITION...
EXACTLY!
WHERE ARE ORELDO AND MACHS?
IS TO RECOVER THAT AMMUNITION?
SO OUR MISSION THIS TIME

THOSE TWO WENT TO THE HOSPITAL-
WARRANT OFFICER ORELDO AND WARRANT OFFICER MACHS
REPORTING FOR DUTY, SIR!
THE HOSPI-TAL...?
Ah, I see...
I told you it's fine.
Don't tease him so much.
Probably
COME TO THINK OF IT, TODAY WAS THE DAY THE HOSPITAL...
WAS SUPPOSED TO DISCHARGE HIM.

CORPORAL RANDEL OLAND.
RETURNING TO DUTY AS OF TODAY, SIR.
AAAH SORRY, I DIDN'T PREPARE A CELERATION FOR YOUR RETURN
THERE'S NO NEED!
THAT GUY GETS HOSPI-TALIZED ENOUGH AS IT IS!
How many times does this make?!

AND BE-SIDES...
WHERE'S YOUR UNIFORM?!
Well.. you see...

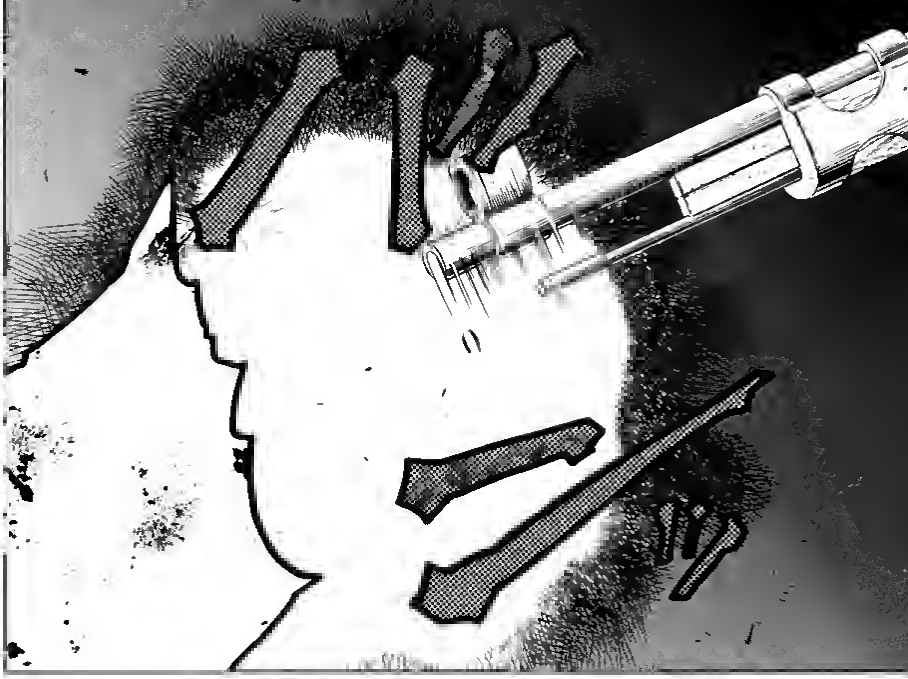
Well, we don't really keep uniforms your size in stock after all.
After it got torn during our last operation,
I wasn't able to get a new one.
W-well!- If that's the case, I guess it can't be helped-
Ah but I have this
THIS IS STILL A MILITARY UNIFORM!
It's a bit old, though.
IT'S MY OLD UNIT'S UNIFORM.

YOU'RE PART OF SECTION 3 NOW.
SO YOU HAVE TO WEAR SECTION 3'S UNIFORM.
カロ...
す...
Hey wait-
Like I said, I couldn't get one.
Lieu-tenant?
Lieu-ten-ant!
ごっ

EVEN IF WE LOOK LIKE THE "JACK OF ALL TRADES" UNIT...
BUT YOU KNOW
WE'RE JUST FROM THE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT.
THIS IS REALLY SOMETHING THE ADMINISTRATION BUREAU SHOULD HANDLE.
IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE THE WAR DAMAGE RELIEF UNIT...

IT LOOKS LIKE THE ADMINISTRATION BUREAU ALREADY SENT THEM A MESSAGE.
BUT THERE WAS NO RESPONSE FROM THE COMMANDER OF THE FORTRESS.
COMMANDER?
RUDOLPH YUSEF.
IT SEEMS HE'S HAD A LOT OF COMBAT EXPERIENCE.
ANYWAY, IT LOOKS LIKE THE ADMINISTRATION BUREAU IS SAYING "WE'VE DONE ALL WE CAN".
NOW IT'S JUST "SOMETHING SOMEONE ELSE HAS TO DO" RIGHT?

That's what our job is!!
YEP!
"SOMETHING SOMEONE ELSE HAS TO DO"...
ギュッ


*Bang!

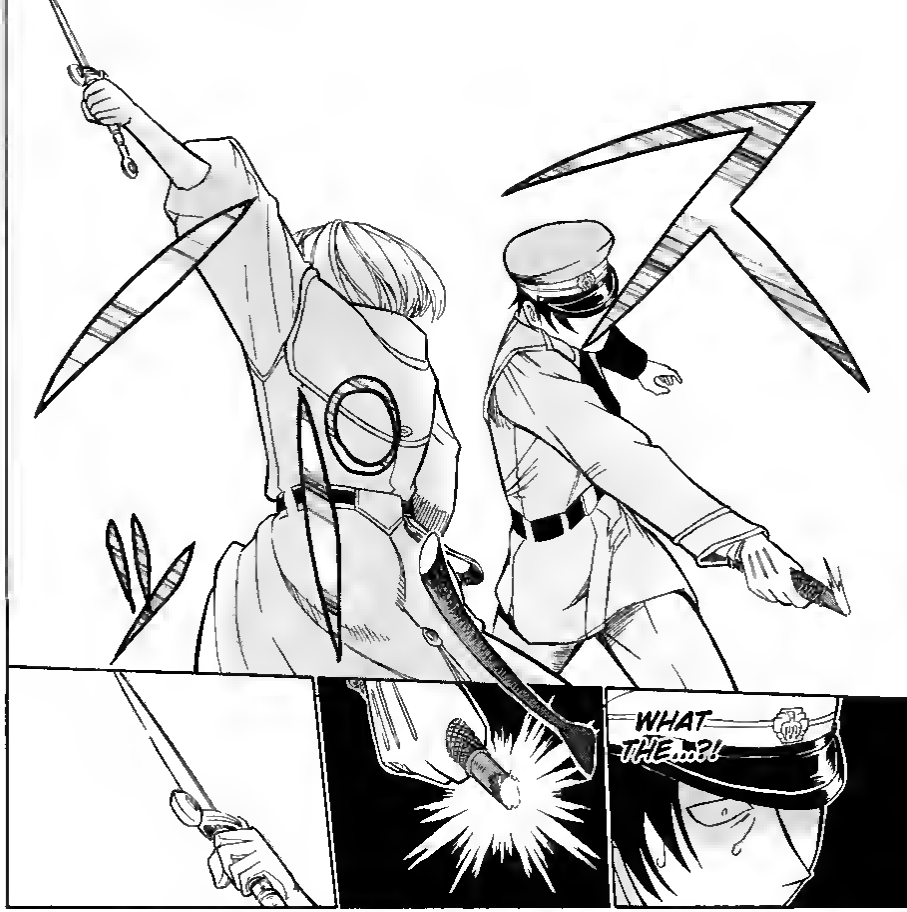
I'M A BIT JEALOUS OF THOSE DOGS.

ARE THESE ALL OF THE MESSENGER DOGS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION BUREAU SENT?
YES, THIS IS WAS THE LAST ONE.

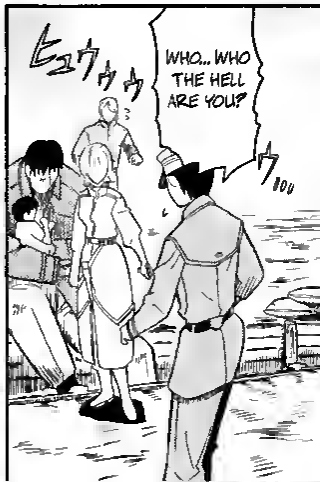
SO THEY SIMPLY DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY..
THEY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF THE WORD "CEASEFIRE".
IN OTHER WORDS, THEY WERE ABLE TO DIE IN COMBAT.
SOLDIERS
SHOULD SPEND THEIR LAST MOMENTS ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
チュンチュン
チチチ

WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON HERE?
JUST
TRAIN-ING?
ARE THEY
THEY MIGHT HIT PEOPLE'S HOMES BY ACCIDENT!
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY-

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, NUMBER 12?
THOSE ARE CIVILIANS!
These war games I don't wanna
Don't wanna
12
GAMES?
TA TA TA TA
YOU BRAT ...
Ah
YOU NEED TO BE DISCI-PLINED!


WHAT THE...?!

WHERE IS THE COM-MAND-ER?!
SI-LENCE!


ヒュウゥゥ
WHO... WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

SHIV ER
SHIV ER
HMP
THESE TREAD MARKS...
THEY'VE GOT A TANK!!

IMPERIAL ARMY SECTION 3.
A UNIT CREATED AFTER THE WAR...
YUSEF
I AM THE COM-MANDER OF THIS FOR-TRESS.

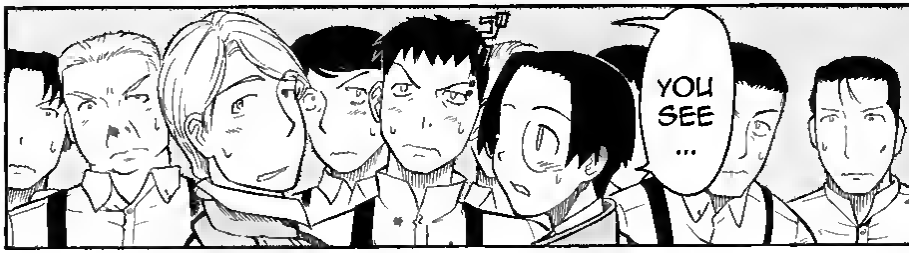
WHY ARE YOU FORCING THE CIVILIANS TO GO THROUGH MILITARY TRAINING?!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS!
I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY
TO BRATS WHO DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ON A BATTLEFIELD!
BUT I'M PUTTING A STOP TO ALL THIS FOOLISH-NESS!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU WON'T ANSWER ME,
す…

"RECOVER ALL OF THE AMMUNITION STORED IN THIS FORTRESS"!
AFTER SENDING YOU NOTICES, THE ADMINISTRATION BUREAU HAS TASKED US TO RELIEVE YOU OF YOUR ARMAMENTS!
DO AS YOU PLEASE.
ALMOST NONE OF THAT AMMUNITION REMAINS ANYWAY.
THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY!
AND WHAT'S LEFT IS GOING TO BE USED UP IN TONIGHT'S MISSION.
!!!

カロン
A BLUE STEEL LANTERN!
THAT MAN, COULD IT BE..?
I'M NOT SURE, BUT HE'S DEFI-NITELY ...

WHAT'S GOING ON?
AH, LIEU-TENANT

SOMEONE WHO'S EXPERIENCED WAR, JUST LIKE US.


YOU SEE ...

Cheers!!

HOTEL & RESTAURANT
Hey everyone! We won't have to do drills anymore!
These guys are here to put a stop to it!
Hey wait- there's no way I could just take your reserve stores
HEEEY, COULD SOME-ONE HELP US WITH THESE?
WHAT'S WITH ALL THOSE GUNS?
Don't worry about it! We'll be able to work again every day after this!
WELL...THE COMMANDER JUST TOLD US TO TAKE THEM BACK WITH US...

I GUESS THEY'RE A PARTING GIFT FOR US?
DON'T BE STUPID. IT'S ALL GOVERNMENT PROPERTY
DURING A TRAINING EXERCISE, HIS OLDER BROTHER GOT RUN OVER BY A TANK...
THAT KID...

What's with the long face?
Just have fun and drink with everyone!
H-HOW IMPUDENT, ORELDO!
Well! I can understand that guy's feelings quite well!
Looking all depressed and not drinking with everyone during a celebration...
You're the impudent one here, little lady!

THEIR DAILY TRAINING MUST HAVE BEEN REALLY TOUGH...
THEY REALLY LET THEM-SELVES GO...
YUSEF...
.....
That's not true
I'm the only one who managed to stay sober
LIEU-TENANT ...
IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE'S REJECTING THIS CEASEFIRE... THIS PEACE.
Ugh, so heavy...
WHY DID HE KEEP MAKING ALL OF THE CIVILIANS TRAIN?

YOU'RE REALLY SKILLED WITH THE SWORD.
YOU MUST HAVE SPENT MANY YEARS PRACTICING.
WELL... YEAH, I GUESS.
I'VE SPENT HALF MY LIFE WORKING ON IT.
STARTING TOMOR-ROW,
PLEASE TRY TO KEEP ON LIVING WHILE FORGETTING ABOUT THE SWORD.

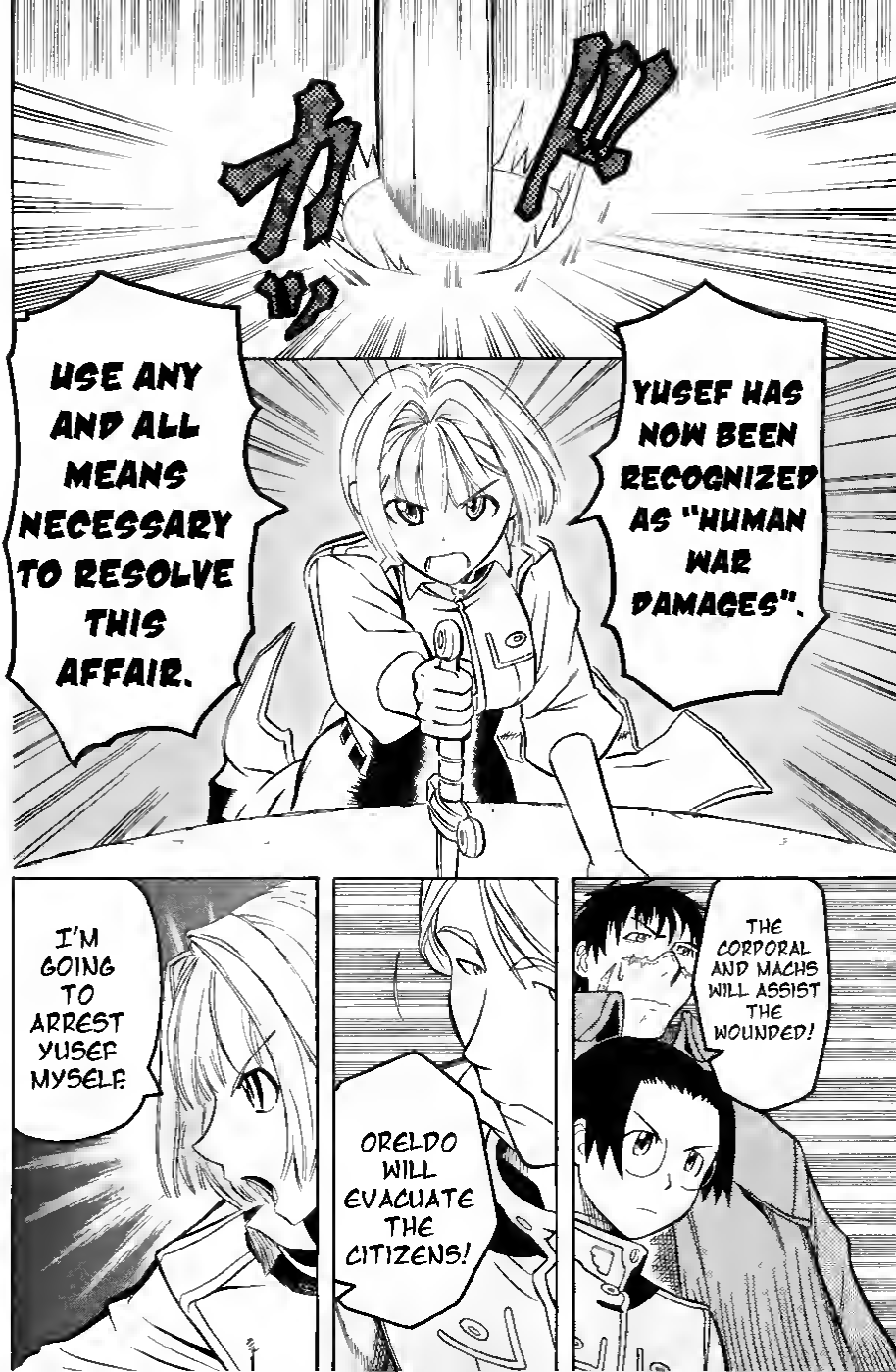
Sorry.
...
WHAT... DID YOU SAY?!
BUT I'M SURE THAT YUSEF
FEELS THE SAME WAY.
WHAT THE "SWORD" IS TO YOU
IS WHAT THE "BATTLEFIELD" IS TO HIM.

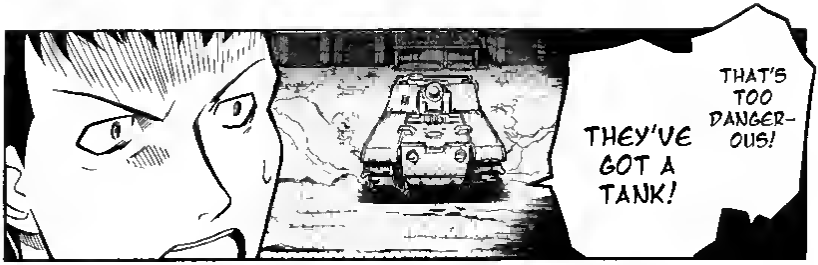
COMMENCE OPERATIONS
FIRE!

ドドド

YUSEF?!
LADIES AND GENTLE-MEN!
WHAT THE
WE WILL NOW BEGIN THE FINAL TRAINING EXERCISE!
NOW, TAKE YOUR WEAPONS!

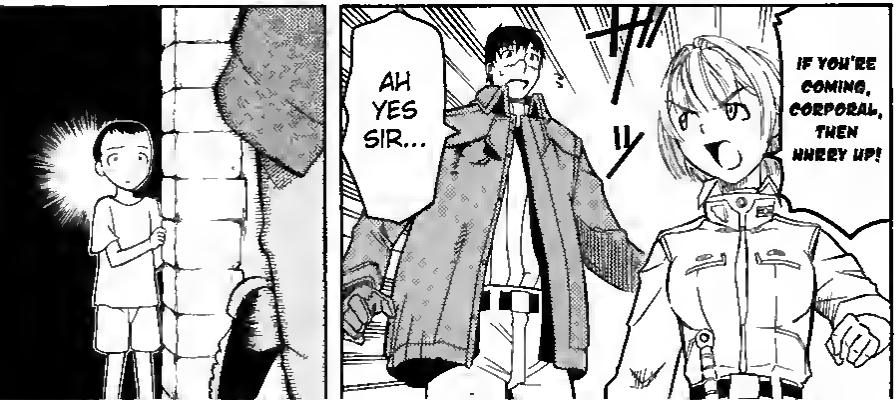
THIS IS LIVE COMBAT TRAINING.
WHY'D THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN...
SHIT!
DAMN ...IT ...
IT'S LIKE.. WE'RE ON AN ACTUAL BATTLE-FIELD.
SHIT!

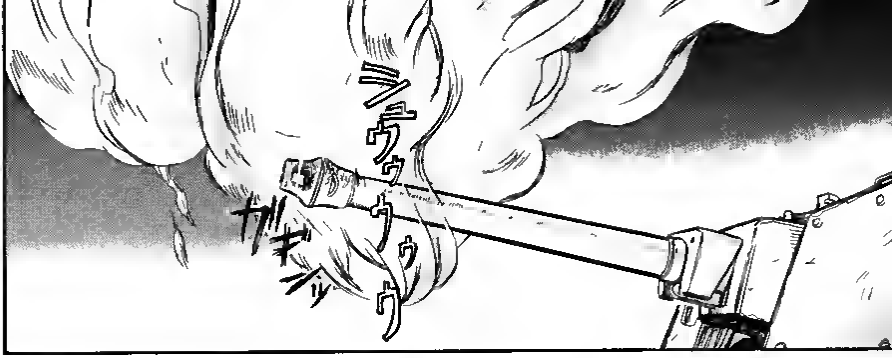

カッ!!
USE ANY AND ALL MEANS NECESSARY TO RESOLVE THIS AFFAIR.
YUSEF HAS NOW BEEN RECOGNIZED AS "HUMAN WAR DAMAGES".
I'M GOING TO ARREST YUSEF MYSELF.
ORELDO WILL EVACUATE THE CITIZENS!
THE CORPORAL AND MACHS WILL ASSIST THE WOUNDED!


THAT'S TOO DANGER-OUS!
THEY'VE GOT A TANK!

LIEUTENANT, I'LL DISTRACT THE TANK.
LIKE I SAID.
THERE'S NO WAY A HUMAN CAN STAND UP TO A TANK!

I'd like to see some-thing like that
try and stop me
"SOME THING LIKE THAT"
THEY'RE DIFFERENT FROM YOU GUYS!


IF YOU'RE COMING, CORPORAL, THEN HURRY UP!
AH YES SIR...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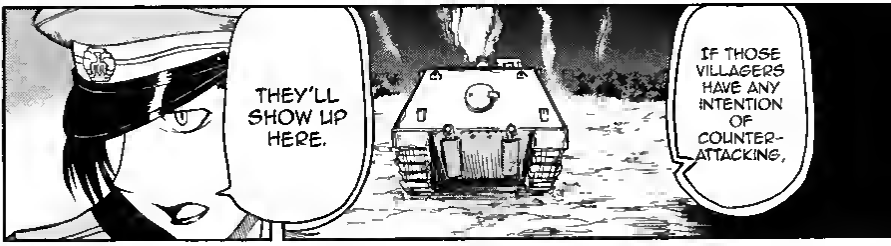
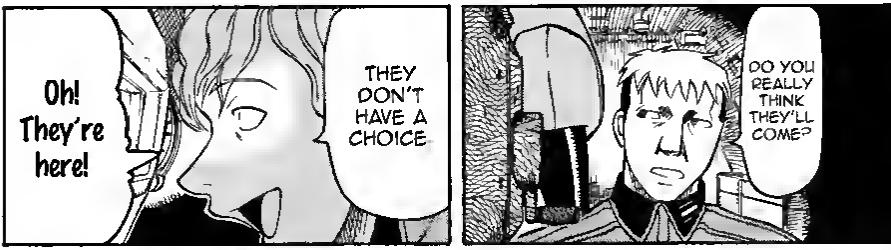
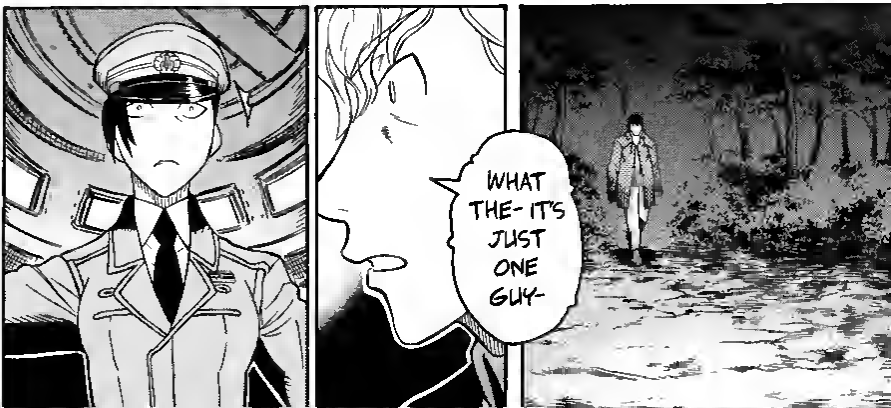
ガギン


IF THOSE VILLAGERS HAVE ANY INTENTION OF COUNTER-ATTACKING,
THEY'LL SHOW UP HERE.


DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY'LL COME?
THEY DON'T HAVE A CHOICE
Oh! They're here!


WHAT THE- IT'S JUST ONE GUY-

HE'S...!
IT'S THE SAME AS YOUR "SWORD" LIEUTENANT...
SHING
THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A LOT OF PAINFUL THINGS
THAT YOU WORKED WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH TO OVERCOME...
AND THEN SUDDENLY, THEY BECAME AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOU...
BUT ON THE DAY OF THE CEASEFIRE,

HE WAS TOLD
TO FORGET ABOUT THAT IMPORTANT PART OF HIMSELF.
IT'S IM-POS-SIBLE FOR HIM.
BUT

EVEN THOUGH
THE WAR IS FINALLY OVER.
A BLUE LIGHT?
HUH...
A "WILL-O'-THE-WISP"!
...!

THEY CONTINUE TO MARCH FORWARD
ALONGSIDE THE BLUE WILL-O'-THE-WISP.

1
2
3
LOAD AN EXPLO-SIVE CHARGE!
MAIN BAT-TERY!
FIRE!

NO...
As expected! A direct hit.
HE MANAGED TO AVOID
THE BRUNT OF THE BLAST.
IN THAT CASE...
...TCH!
OUR AIM AND TIMING WERE SUPPOSED TO BE PERFECT!
IMPOSSIBLE...

ATTACK!
RUN HIM OVER!
ROGER!
ガコ
SO, WHICH WAY ARE YOU GOING TO RUN...?
RIGHT?! OR
LEF-

IN FRONT?!
A TANK GOING FULL SPEED...

ガルル
ガ
DAMMNIT! HE'S HANGING RIGHT ON TO THE TANK!
THIS GUY- RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME-
カリリ
thud
thud

HUH ?
HE'S AFTER YOU!
WATCH OUT, MAJOR!

HALT
SHAKE HIM OFF!

•PANT•
•PANT•
•PANT•
•PANT•
•PANT•
THEY WILL NEVER STOP WALKING.
EVEN IF THEIR ARMS ARE RIPPED OFF.
EVEN IF THEIR EYES ARE BURNED OUT.
...

AND FIRING AT POINT BLANK RANGE.
THINKING NOTHING OF THEIR OWN SAFETY,
ANTI-TANK TROOPERS.
THEY'RE "90T"

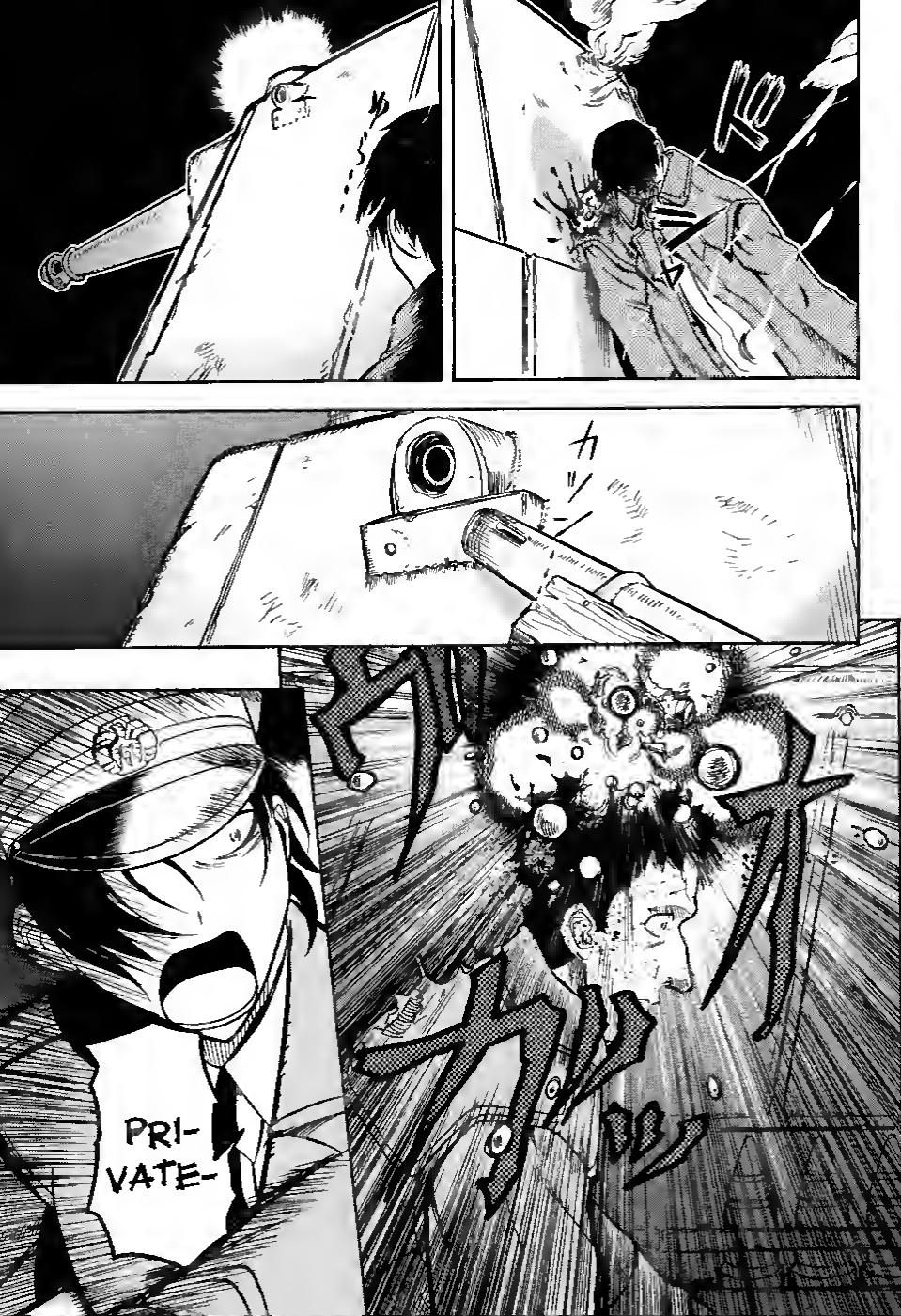
THE GESPENSTER JÄGER!
NOTE: GHOST HUNTERS
ぐっ
HIS LEG...
IT'S BROKEN.
す…

HOW IS HE WALKING
WITH THAT BROKEN LEG?!
CHARGE!
THIS TIME, MAKE SURE YOU KILL HIM!
ROGER!

EEK!

!?
WHY DID YOU AVOID HIM?!
PREPARE THE BUCK-SHOT!
3……
2……
1……
ROGER!

FIRE!
WHY AREN'T THE BULLETS HITTING HIM?!
DAMN! TOO SHAL-LOW!


PRI-
VATE-

キュイン
...TCH!
FAT
FROM THE BUCKSHOT'S
FIRING HOLE!
...PRI-VATE?
PRI-VATE!
RETREAT! WE NEED TO GAIN SOME DISTANCE!

I THINK I KNOW
WHY WE WEREN'T ABLE TO HIT HIM WITH OUR BULLETS
NO MATTER WHO IT IS, IF THEY FACE A TANK HEAD ON, THEIR MOVEMENTS GET DULLED BY FEAR.
ONE SECOND, ONE STEP.. WE EXPECTED HIM TO HESITATE FROM THAT FEAR
WE FIRED WITH THAT TIMING IN MIND.
BUT THAT GUY...
HIS SENSES AREN'T DULLED BY THAT FEAR.

!
ピロ
We had to stop playing war, huh?
In the end.
THAT'S NOT IT.
ドカッ

MAJOR EDGAR. DIED IN BATTLE.
GUNNER...
PRIVATE GODOT. DIED IN BATTLE
AMMUNITION LOADER...
チキ
チキキキ
SEARGENT MAKIS. DIED IN BATTLE.
VICE-GUNNER...
PRIVATE LOTTEL. DIED IN BATTLE
DRIVER...

THIS IS A BATTLEFIELD.
THAT ONE MAN...
BROUGHT A BATTLEFIELD TO THIS PLACE.

I THANK YOU ALL
FOR ACCOM-PANYING ME.
チキキ
カチッ
オオオ

Blam
Boom
SWAT
メキ…
バチ…
OH
OHHH…

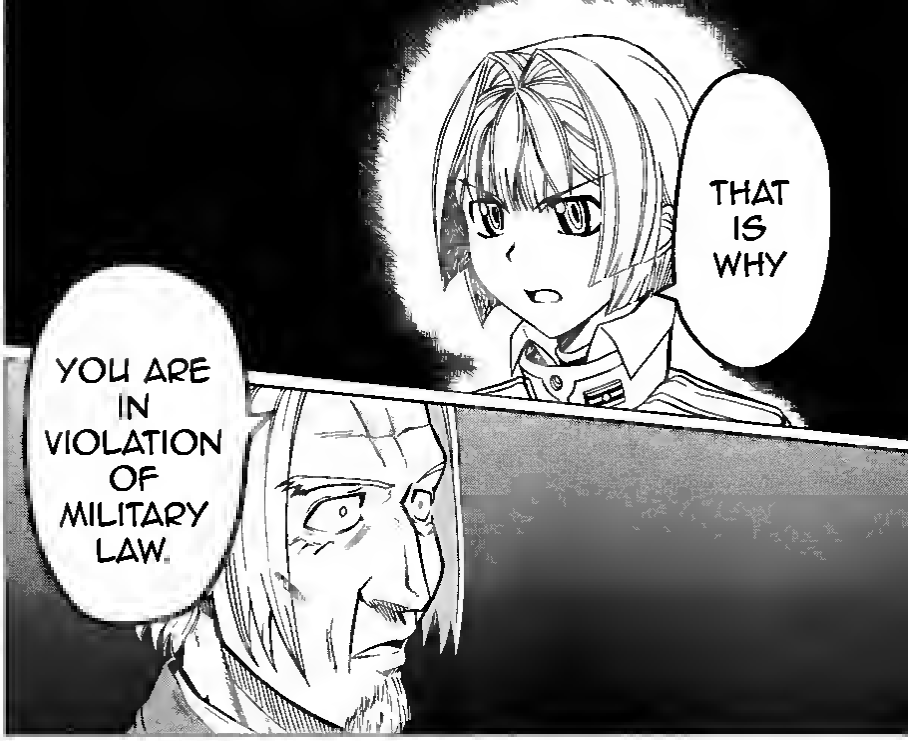
THE TANK...
WAS TAKEN OUT BY A SINGLE FOOT SOLDIER...
COM-MANDER OF BELTA FORTRESS
YUSEF.
YOU HAVE BROKEN MILITARY LAW. I'LL BE TAKING YOU INTO CUSTODY!

FOR BREACH OF MILITARY LAW?
FOR CARRYING OUT TRAINING EXERCISES WITHOUT PERMIS-SION?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH FULFILLING OUR DUTY?!
FIGHTING IS THE ESSENCE OF A SOLDIER!

WHEN YOU WERE IN MILITARY SCHOOL, YOU SHOULD HAVE SWORN THE SAME OATH.
IT'S SOMETHING MUCH MORE FUNDA-MENTAL THAN THAT

YOU HARMED THOSE CITIZENS.

THAT YOU WILL FIGHT TO PROTECT YOUR COUNTRY!
TO PROTECT THE PEACE OF THE CITIZENS!


THAT IS WHY
YOU ARE IN VIOLATION OF MILITARY LAW.

YES.
BECAUSE OF WHAT THE CORPORAL TOLD ME.

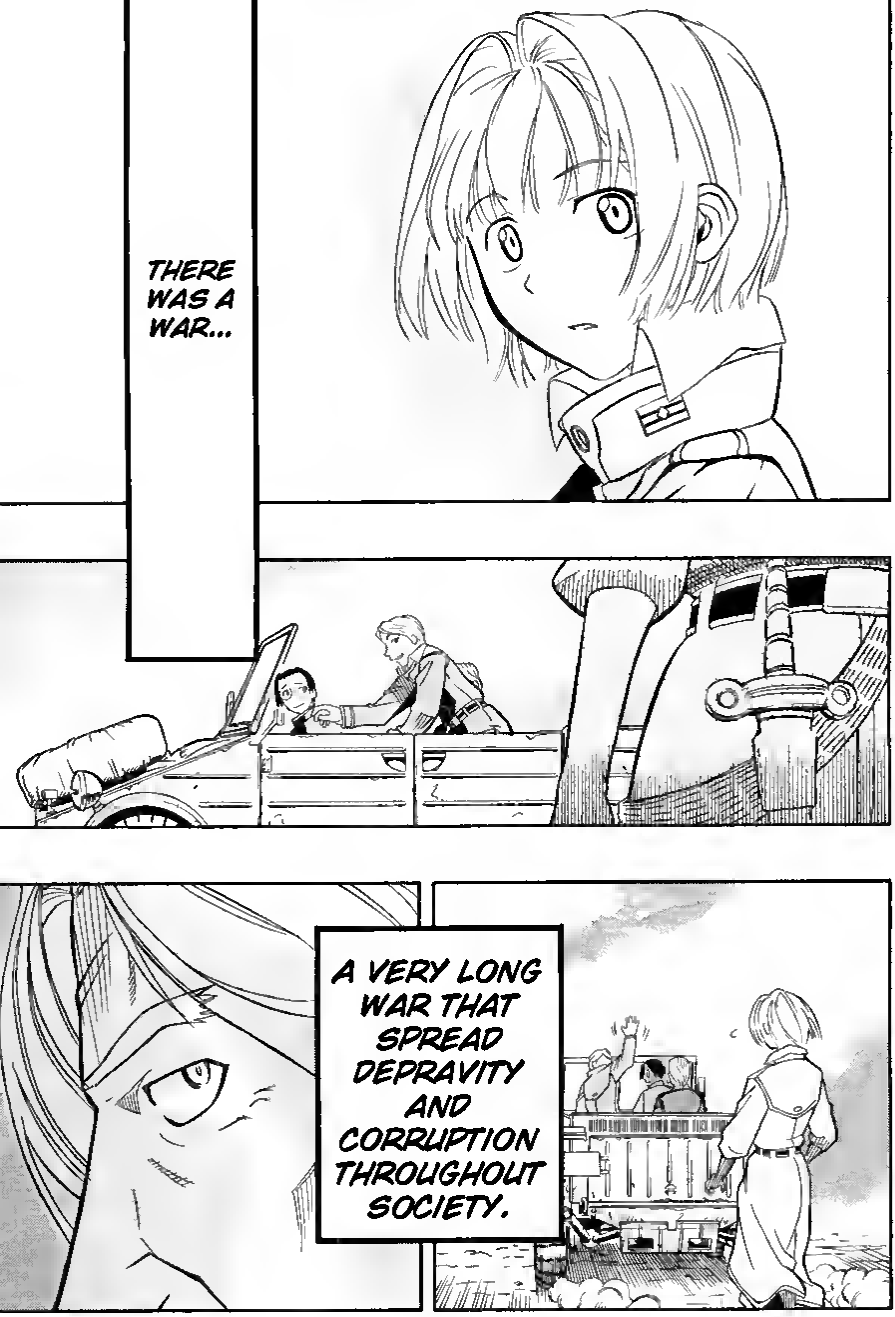
KUKU-KUKU-KUKU.
YOU THINK I'LL JUST SIT HERE AND TAKE THESE ACCUSATIONS?
ぐっ…

YUSEF, IN THE END...
YOU TRULY ARE A SOL-DIER.
I HAVE
JUST ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOU.
THAT MAN IS LIKE US.
SOMEDAY, IN A PLACE YOU DON'T KNOW, HE'LL BE KILLED IN COMBAT.

YES, ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS VILLAGE ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.
.....
EH? YOU'RE COMING WITH US LIEUTEN-ANT?!
ALRIGHT, WE'LL TAKE YUSEF FROM HERE.
PLEASE TAKE THE CORPO-RAL WITH YOU TOO!
ブッブッ

DO YOUR WOUNDS HURT?
HUH? OH, YEAH...
とん…
BIG BRO TH- ER ...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, MISTER?
……

MY RANK IS CORPORAL,
MY NAME IS RANDEL OLAND,
clink
AND MY UNIT IS...
IMPERIAL ARMY SECTION 3: PUMPKIN SCISSORS.

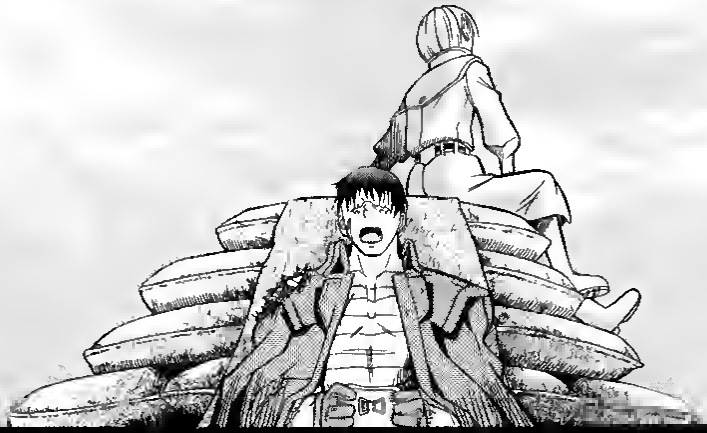

THERE WAS A WAR...
A VERY LONG WAR THAT SPREAD DEPRAVITY AND CORRUPTION THROUGHOUT SOCIETY.

AND THAT UNIT'S NAME IS...
HOWEVER, A UNIT CREATED TO DESTROY THOSE EVILS KNOWN AS "WAR DAMAGES" EXISTS.
AH, LIEU-TEN-ANT.
のしっ…

HUH?
SAY IT... AGAIN.
SAY THE NAME OF YOUR UNIT ONE MORE TIME.
THAT UNIT IS CALLED

Imperial Army Section 3

PUMPKIN SCISSORS !!



#18／END

KUUDERE

CREDITS

TL	NINGEN
TLC	AYASE
TYPESETTER	CRUX
CLEANER	VIXENKIBA

KUUDERE-SCANS!

COME VISIT US AT KUUDERE.COM

ONE POTATO SALAD!
HERE YOU GO.
Salad?

Umm. excuse me.
HUH?
OH! I'M SO SORRY.
Looks like I messed up.
Let me get you a replacement right away!
.....
AHAHA
This your first time here, Sir?
You should just learn to let those things go.
REGINA'S BEEN REALLY OUT OF IT LATELY.
I messed up again.

Sorry!
Georg & Regina
EVER SINCE HER HUSBAND DIED, SHE'S BEEN TAKING CARE OF THIS STORE ALL BY HERSELF.
YOU GOTTA LEARN TO NOT WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT THE LITTLE MISTAKES SHE MAKES.
ホヤ
YEAH...

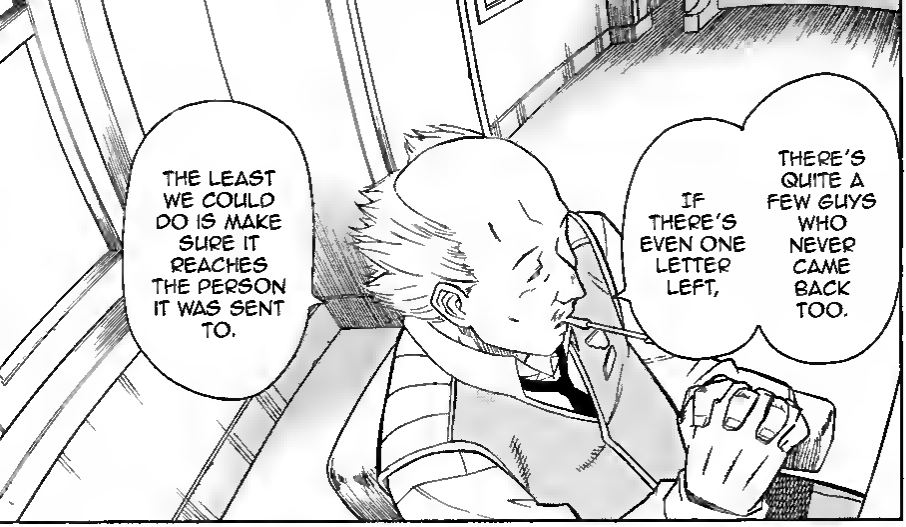
†第19話 Letter the Later

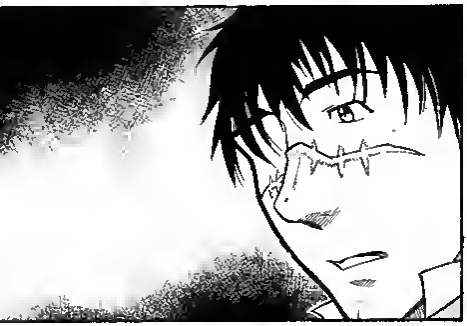
AS SOON AS THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE POSTAL SERVICE WERE LIFTED AFTER THE WAR, THE BURDEN ON THE POST OFFICES INCREASED A GREAT DEAL.
FAMILIES WANTED TO CONFIRM WHAT HAPPENED TO THEIR RELATIVES WHEN THEY WERE DEPLOYED
IN ORDER TO SUPPORT THE FAMILY THEY HAD BEEN SEPARATED FROM FOR SO LONG
THERE WERE A GREAT NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO SENT MONEY BACK HOME...
AND THAT MONEY NEVER REACHED ITS INTENDED DESTINATION.
SO EMBEZZLE-MENT?

UNFORGIVE-ABLE! HOW DARE THEY DEFILE THE HONOR OF THE IMPERIAL POSTAL SERVICE!!
WE GET IT ALREADY. PLEASE CALM DOWN!
STEP...
THAT'S... SO CRUEL...

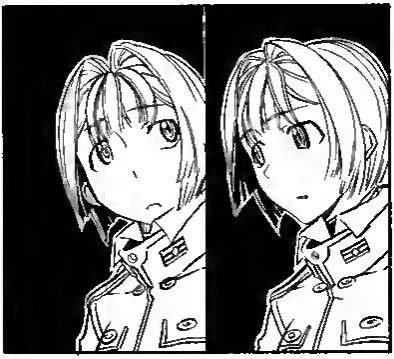
Corporal?
They can't reach their recipi-erts...
The letters...
OH, YEAH. THAT BAD HUH?
IT LOOKS LIKE WE NEED TO INSTITUTE SOME DISCIPLINE.
IN ORDER FOR THIS COUNTRY TO RECOVER FROM THE WAR, AN EFFECTIVE POSTAL SYSTEM IS A MUST!

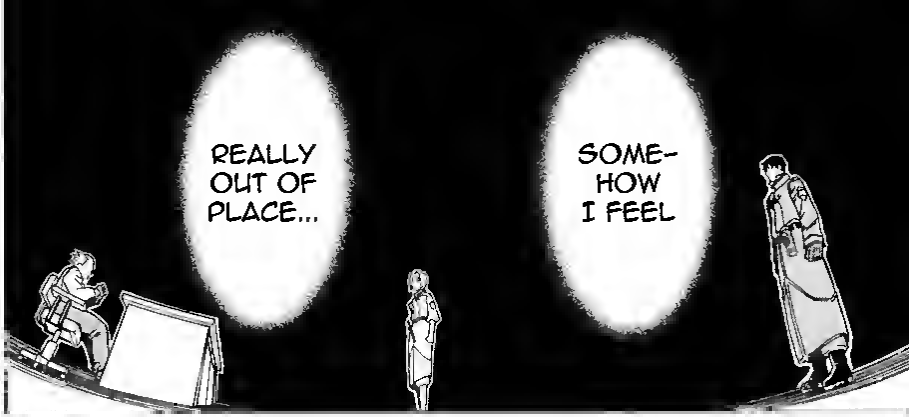
THE MISSION THIS TIME IS "APPREHEND THE CRIMINALS IN CHARGE OF THE EMBEZZLEMENT".
AND IF POSSIBLE, "RECOVERY OF THE EMBEZZLED FUNDS".
LEAVING ASIDE THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO APPREHEND THEM...
DO YOU REALLY THINK ANY OF THE STOLEN GOODS ARE GOING TO BE LEFT?
The money's probably all gone
THAT'S WHY I SAID "IF POSSIBLE"
THERE WERE A LOT OF SOLDIERS ON THE FRONT LINE THAT SENT THEIR MONEY BACK HOME DURING THE WAR.
IT SEEMS LIKE THOSE FUNDS THAT WERE SENT BACK THROUGH THE SUPPLY SQUAD MAY HAVE BEEN EMBEZZLED, TOO.

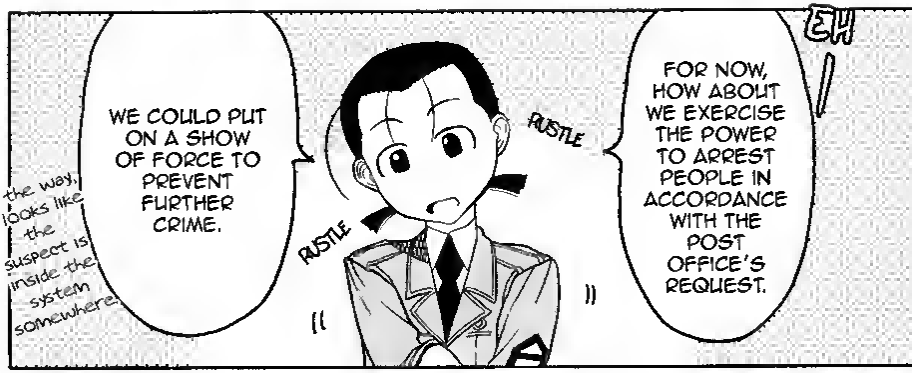

THE LEAST WE COULD DO IS MAKE SURE IT REACHES THE PERSON IT WAS SENT TO.
IF THERE'S EVEN ONE LETTER LEFT,
THERE'S QUITE A FEW GUYS WHO NEVER CAME BACK TOO.



WHAT'S THIS...




REALLY OUT OF PLACE...
SOME-HOW I FEEL


By the way, it looks like the suspect is inside the system somewhere.
WE COULD PUT ON A SHOW OF FORCE TO PREVENT FURTHER CRIME.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
FOR NOW, HOW ABOUT WE EXERCISE THE POWER TO ARREST PEOPLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POST OFFICE'S REQUEST.
EH!

UGH! THERE'S SO MANY!
So let's put all these guys under surveillance!

PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
HALT! STOP RIGHT THERE.
PANT
BUT INSTEAD, YOU'RE JUST PUSHING ALL THE DIRTY WORK ONTO SOMEONE ELSE
PANT
YOU GUYS COULD AT LEAST DESTROY THEM YOURSELVES
JEEZ, YOU GUYS SICKEN ME.

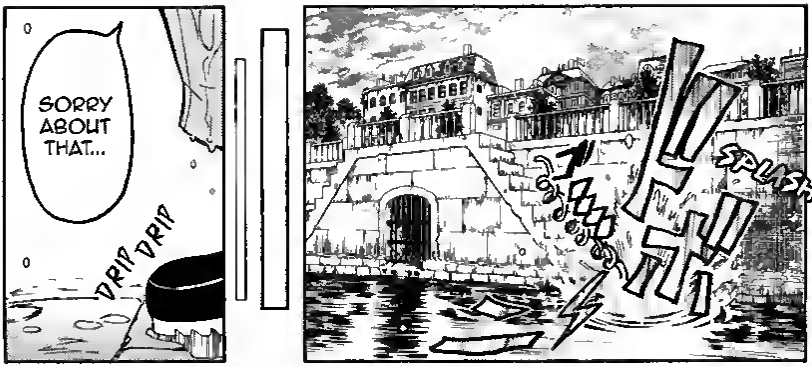
UWOOOOOOOO!!!
ALTHOUGH MY MARTIAL ARTS SCORES WERE PRETTY LOW...
GIVE IT UP.

BUT I'M SECOND TO NONE IN A STREET FIGHT.
TUMBLETUMBLETUMBLETUMBLE
CRASH
GYAA!
(PANT)
(PANT)
(PANT)
SOME-TIMES
I WONDER IF YOU'RE THE ONE I SHOULD BE PUNISHING
SLIP SLIP
NOW THEN! WE STILL HAVE TO APPRE-HEND HIM!

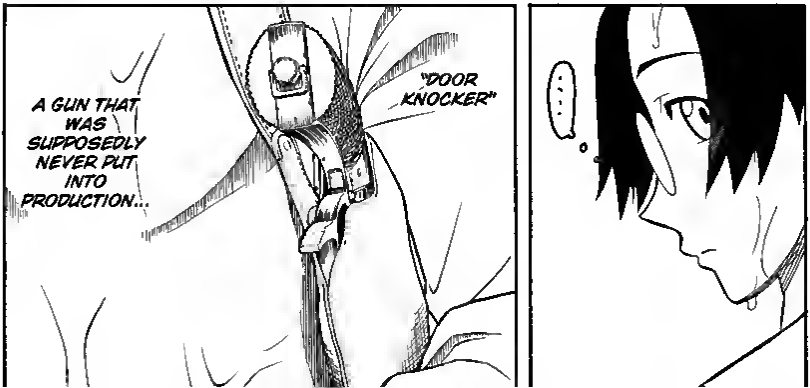
WELL, I WAS WONDERING
WHAT IS IT, LIEUTENANT?
HEY ORELDO...
THE CORPORAL AND CAPTAIN HANKS..
DON'T YOU THINK THEY SUDDENLY STARTED GETTING REALLY CLOSE TO EACH OTHER WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING?
Captain
LIKE, EVEN THOUGH IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT FROM THE WAY THEY TALK TO EACH OTHER,
IT FEELS LIKE THEY BOTH UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER
WELL ... NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT ...
Really?
Umm That is I don't mean it in a homosexual way!
RIGHT.

PANT
PANT
IT SEEMS LIKE BOTH THE BOSS AND THE BIG GUY REALLY CARE A LOT MORE ABOUT THE LETTERS THAN THE CRIMINALS...
!
GOT-CHA!
CORPORAL! HE'S COMING UP!
GIVE BACK THOSE
LETT-
KUH
RUSTLE

LIKE HELL I'LL LET YOU ARREST ME!
HUH?!
AAAAH!
ACK!
Eh?!
AH-


SORRY ABOUT THAT...
DRIP DRIP
SPLASH!!

Haha
YEAH, I GUESS
I'M JUST GLAD YOU WEREN'T SHOT, CORPORAL
That scared me
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
ベシィ
ベシィ
ベシィ


A GUN THAT WAS SUPPOSEDLY NEVER PUT INTO PRODUCTION...
"DOOR KNOCKER"

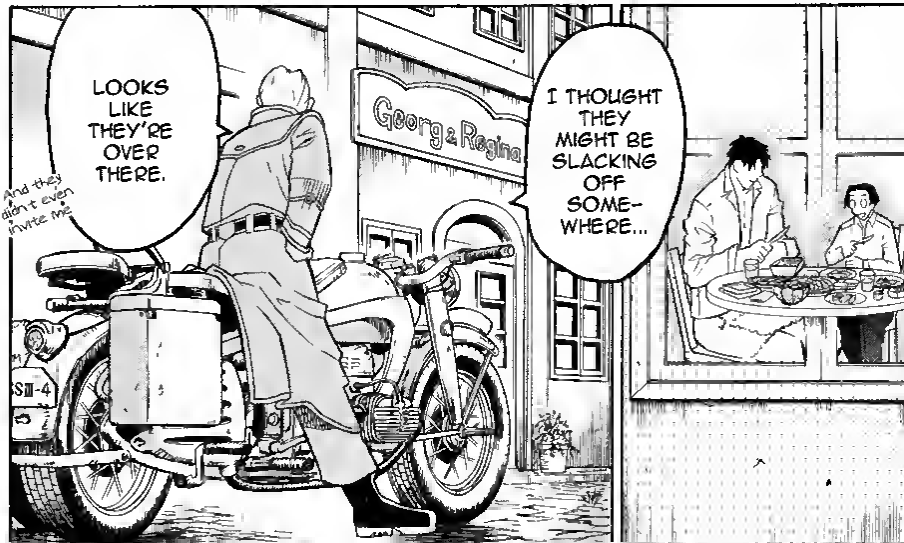
ONE DAY,
WE'LL HAVE TO PROPERLY INVESTIGATE THE MATTER...

BUT FOR NOW...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU TWO?!
COME WITH ME FOR A BIT.
YOU'RE COMPLETELY SOAKED!

Georg & Regina
You're that customer from yesterday.
I remember you!
As expected, I don't have anything in your size, though!
YOUR HUSBAND'S CLOTHES, AREN'T THEY?
THOSE ARE GEORG'S...
HEY, ARE YOU SURE THAT'S OKAY, REGINA?

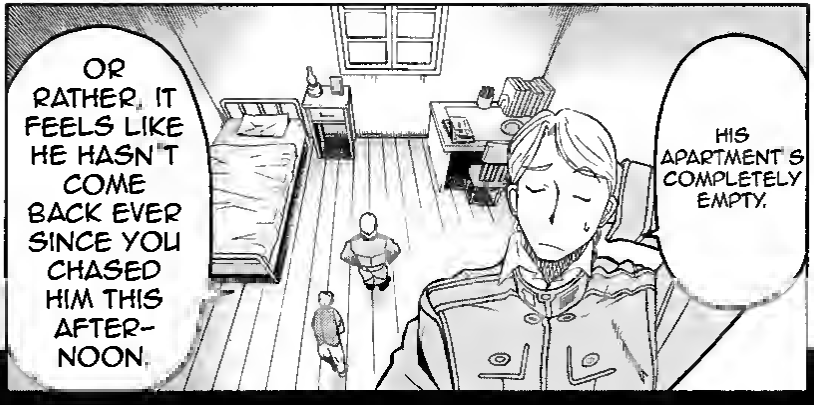
I STARTED MOVING ON ISN'T IT?
.....WELL IT'S ABOUT TIME...
ALRIGHT! IN THAT CASE PLEASE MARRY ME-
HEY YOU GUYS!
I'VE BEEN HERE SINCE THE RES-TAURANT OPENED-
I'M A BETTER CHOICE THAN YOU ARE-
YOU BASTARD! TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE CONFUSION-

UMM... THANKS FOR LETTING US USE YOUR BATH.
HERE'S THE MONEY FOR THE WATER BILL...
THIS IS A RESTAU-RANT.
If you want to pay me, you better eat my food!


LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE OVER THERE.
And they didn't even invite me.
I THOUGHT THEY MIGHT BE SLACKING OFF SOME-WHERE...
Georg & Regina
SII-4

SHALL WE BRING THEM BACK?
THEY'RE JUST HAVING LUNCH.
IT'S NOTHING TO GET MAD OVER.

EATING LUNCH IS FINE AND ALL,
BUT GOING TO EAT FOOD AFTER LETTING THE CRIMINAL ESCAPE IS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT STORY!!
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING GIVING THE CULPRIT TIME TO ESCAPE AFTER LETTING HIM SLIP RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE?!
We're sorry.
AND BESIDES
I'M BACK.


HIS APARTMENT'S COMPLETELY EMPTY.
OR RATHER, IT FEELS LIKE HE HASN'T COME BACK EVER SINCE YOU CHASED HIM THIS AFTER-NOON.

WELL, HE POINTED A GUN AT A SOLDIER.
HE MIGHT HAVE EVEN FLED THE COUNTRY.

I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT ATTEMPTED MURDER
WE SHOULD PROBABLY START PUTTING UP WANTED POSTERS FOR HIM AROUND STATIONS NEAR THE BORDER AND SUCH...
LET'S TRY THAT FOR NOW

UMM... WERE YOU ABLE TO RECOVER ANY OF THE LETTERS?
ARE YOU STILL GOING ON ABOUT THAT?
OF THE STOLEN LETTERS, THERE WEREN'T ANY.
THERE WASN'T A SINGLE ONE. NOT ONE WAS LEFT INSIDE THE HOUSE.
THAT'S WEIRD.

WHY?
DOESN'T THAT JUST MEAN HE DISPOSED OF ALL OF THEM?
BUT THEN IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE IF THERE WERE STILL 1 OR 2 LETTERS LEFT OVER....

A RATHER EXPERIENCED CRIMINAL... IT'S PROBABLE THAT HE'S STOLEN QUITE A BIT.
AND HE RAN AWAY RIGHT AFTER POINTING HIS GUN AT YOU.
DOES THAT MEAN HE HAS A HIDEOUT SOMEWHERE IN THE CAPITAL WHERE HE KEEPS ALL OF THE STOLEN GOODS?
AND YET THERE WASN'T A SINGLE LETTER LEFT OVER IN HIS HOUSE...
IN OTHER WORDS ...
HE'S GOING TO WANT TO RETRIEVE ALL OF THE THINGS HE STOLE...
IF HE'S PLANNING TO ESCAPE, THEN BEFORE THAT,

よしっ
THEN LET'S FIND THIS HIDEOUT OF HIS!
YOU'RE SAYING HE MIGHT STILL BE IN THE CAPITAL?!
IT WOULD BE NICE IF WE HAD SOME KIND OF POLICE DOG OR SOME-THING...
ボヘッ
ワイワイ
ワイワイ

DAMMIT!
IT'S A GOOD THING I SORTED OUT ALL OF THE LETTERS THAT HAVE MONEY IN THEM!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S COME TO THIS!
THIS IS NEAR WHERE YOUR DELIVERY ROUTES ARE TOO.
I SEE.

THAN IT IS TO TAKE THEM ALL THE WAY BACK HOME.
IT'S SAFER FOR YOU TO JUST HIDE THEM HERE WHILE DOING YOUR ROUNDS.

!

RETURN THOSE LETTERS THAT YOU STOLE-
NOW THEN!

I BET YOU'RE TOO SCARED TO EVEN MOVE!
YOU BETTER NOT MOVE EITHER GOT IT?
...

HUH?
THE LET-TERS ...
IT COULDN'T BE HEPLED.... WORD WAS GETTING AROUND THAT LETTERS WITH MONEY IN THEM WERE BEING TARGETED.
PEOPLE STARTED HIDING THEIR MONEY IN REGULAR ENVOLOPES.
SO OBVIOUSLY I HAD TO OPEN THEM ALL UP TO SEE WHICH ONES HAD MONEY RIGHT?

I KEPT OPENING AND OPENING THEM,
BUT MOST OF THEM WERE EMPTY.
LIKE THIS ONE
IT'S JUST TRASH.

SHIT!
IT'S JUST A LETTER!
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?!
IS FILLED WITH WATER...
THE FIRING PIN COMPART-MENT

ARE YOU HURT?
WHAT'S WRONG?
WELL...
ARE YOU OKAY, CORPORAL?
I WASN'T ASKING ABOUT THE LETTER!
Is it still readable?
IT'S GOTTEN ALL SOGGY.
HAVE TO SORT ALL OF THESE?!
WHAAAAT?! THE TWO OF US

IT'S YOUR PUNISHMENT.
YOU GUYS WERE SUPPOSED TO HELP THE CORPORAL BREAK IN,
BUT YOU WERE JUST MESSING AROUND!
I'LL HELP.
BIG GUY
I'M SO SORRY I'M SO SORRY
SHUT UP!
THIS ADDRESS...
HUH?
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE

A LETTER
FROM GEORG?
THOUGH IT'S A BIT DELAYED IN BEING DELIVERED...
THE INSIDE IS...
ゴホーン
UMMM...
AM I GETTING IN THE WAY OF SOME-THING?

WHAT'S THE LETTER SAY?!
IT'S FROM THE REPUBLIC.
HE'S IN ONE OF THEIR PRISON CAMPS.
AND THAT HE COULDN'T SEND LETTERS UNTIL NOW.
AND HE DOESN'T KNOW WHEN HE'S GOING TO BE ABLE TO COME HOME.
SOB
HE DOESN'T KNOW WHEN, BUT
HE'S ALIVE.

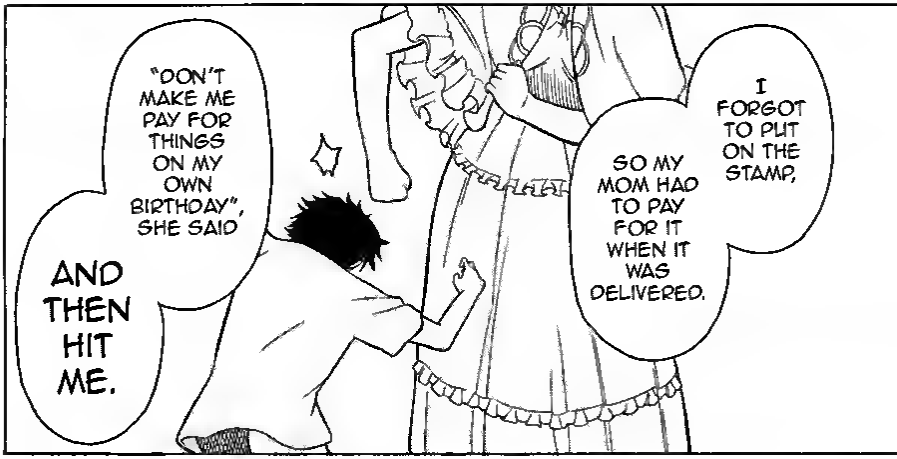
AAAA AAA AAA HHH
AH
AH
THANK GOD!
GEORG IS ALIVE!
YEAH! YEAH!!
NOD NOD
THAT'S GREAT, REGINA!
YOU WERE ABLE TO PROTECT THIS STORE ALL BY YOURSELF
WHO WAS IT?! WHO SAID GEORG WAS DEAD BEFORE?
WELL I JUST THOUGH IT HAD TO BE TRUE! I MEAN HE DIDN'T SEND ANY LETTERS OR ANYTHING FOR 3 YEARS RIGHT?!
DAMN, I'M GOING TO KILL THAT GUY WHEN HE GETS BACK!

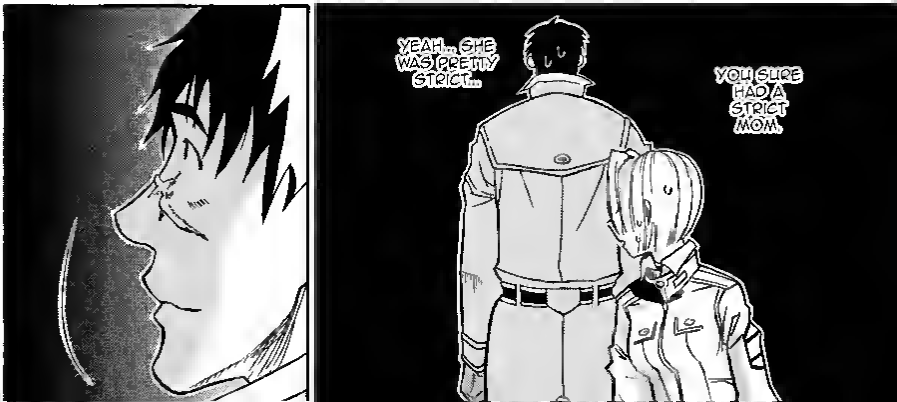
AAAAAH
I'M JUST KIDDING
I FEEL LIKE I FINALLY UNDERSTAND
THE REASON WHY YOU WERE SO OBSESSED WITH THE LETTERS CORPORAL ...
SENDING WORD TO THOSE YOU WERE SEPERATED FROM BECAUSE OF THE WAR.
YOU UNDERSTOOD JUST HOW IMPORTANT THAT IS
BE-CAUSE
YOU UNDER-STAND WAR.

BOTH YOU AND THE CAPTAIN UNDER-STAND
THE WEIGHT OF WAR.
AND... I DIDN'T.
The distance between me and the corporal
BE-CAUSE ...
I DON'T TRULY UNDER-STAND WAR.
LONG AGO...
ボソ
Is huge...

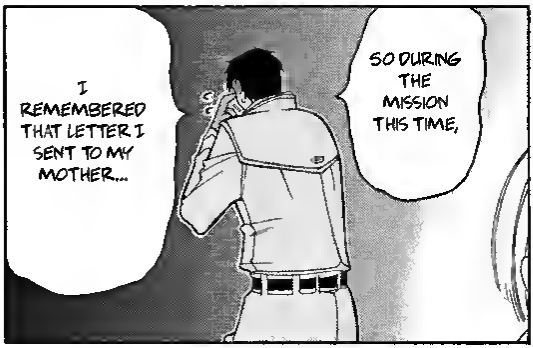
I SENT HER A LETTER.
FOR MY MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY,
WITH THE WRITING I BARELY KNEW HOW TO DO, I WROTE DOWN THE NAME OF MY STREET AND THE NAME OF MY MOTHER'S STORE...
Lotus Street Qadesh
WELL, I LIVED IN THE SAME HOUSE AS HER,
BUT EVEN THOUGH I COULDN'T SEND HER ANY MONEY, I AT LEAST WANTED TO CONGRATULATE HER ON HER BIRTHDAY.

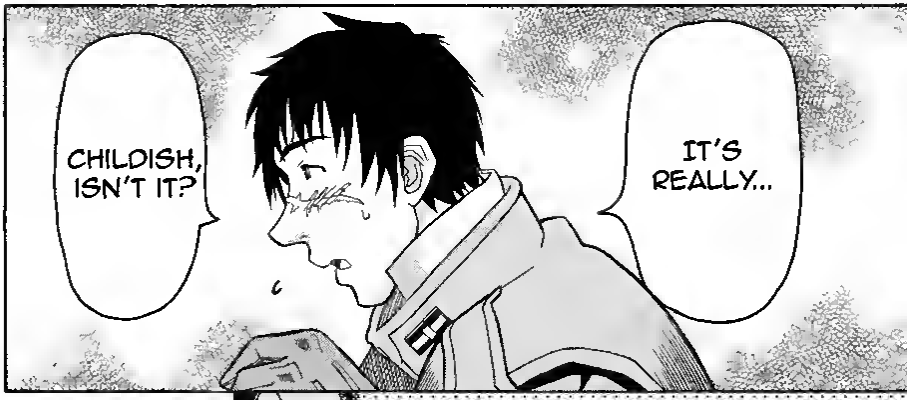
DID IT EVER REACH HER?
WELL... IT MANAGED TO REACH HER, BUT...
That's the kind of place it was.


I FORGOT TO PUT ON THE STAMP,
SO MY MOM HAD TO PAY FOR IT WHEN IT WAS DELIVERED.
"DON'T MAKE ME PAY FOR THINGS ON MY OWN BIRTHDAY", SHE SAID
AND THEN HIT ME.


YOU SURE HAD A STRICT MOM.
YEAH... SHE WAS PRETTY STRICT...

IN THE END.
BUT IT MANAGED TO REACH HER
SCRTCH
LOOKS JUST LIKE THAT LADY'S.
MY MOM'S SMILE.


I REMEMBERED THAT LETTER I SENT TO MY MOTHER...
SO DURING THE MISSION THIS TIME,
HUH?

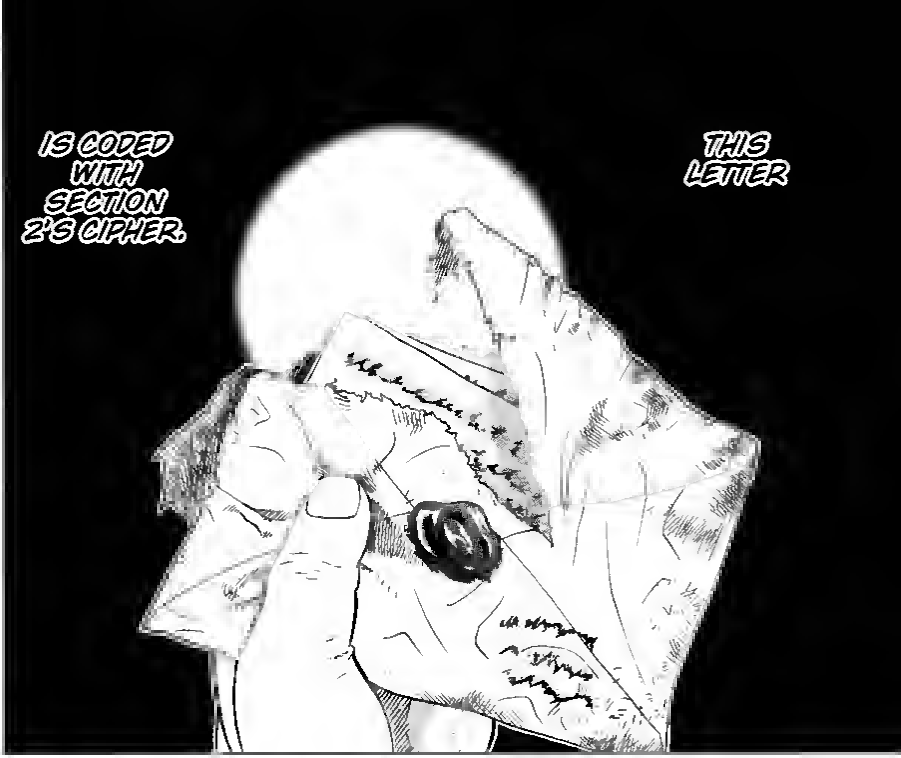

CHILDISH, ISN'T IT?
IT'S REALLY...

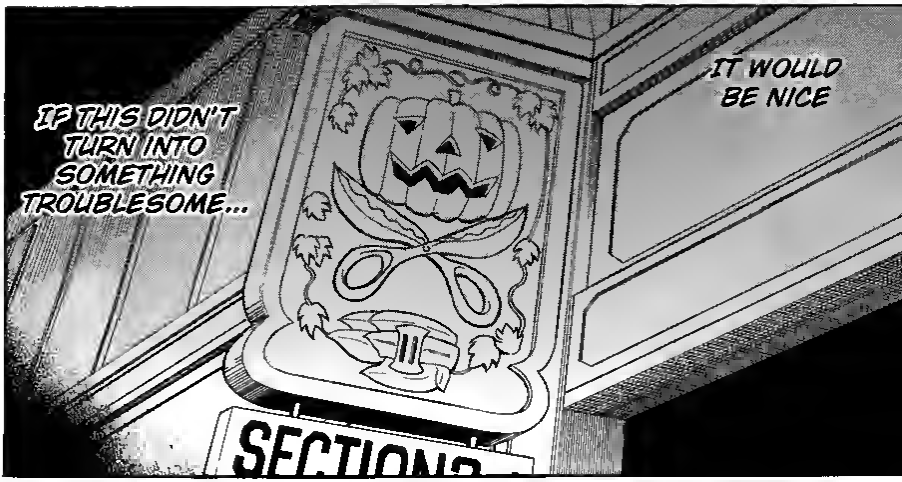
IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE FEELINGS OF HOLDING YOUR FAMILY DEAR THEN-
I LOVE MY MOM AND DAD AND SISTERS AND BROTHER TOO!
N-NOT AT ALL!

IF IT'S THOSE FEELINGS,
THEN EVEN I UNDERSTAND THEM!
THAT'S RIGHT! IT DOESN'T MATTER
IF I UNDERSTAND WAR OR NOT!

THIS GUY
ISN'T FAR FROM ME AT ALL!
LET'S CATCH THE REST OF THOSE EMBEZ-ZLERS!
AND GET THOSE LETTERS BACK TOO!

ROGER LIETU-ENANT!
R-
IT'S INEVITABLE THAT WE GOT TO SEE THE CONTENTS,
AFTER ALL THEY WERE ALREADY OPENED..
DISGUISED AS REGULAR MAIL...
?!

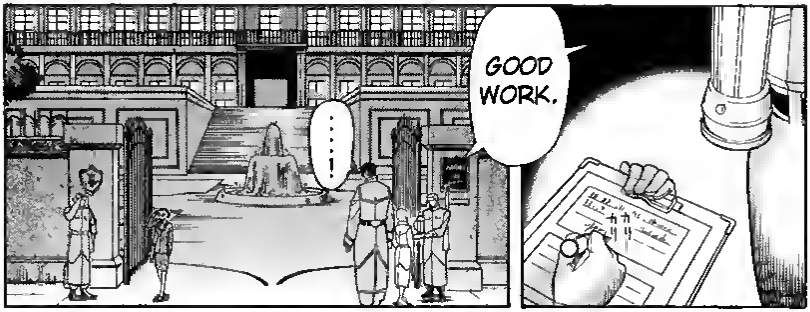

IS CODED WITH SECTION 2'S CIPHER.
THIS LETTER

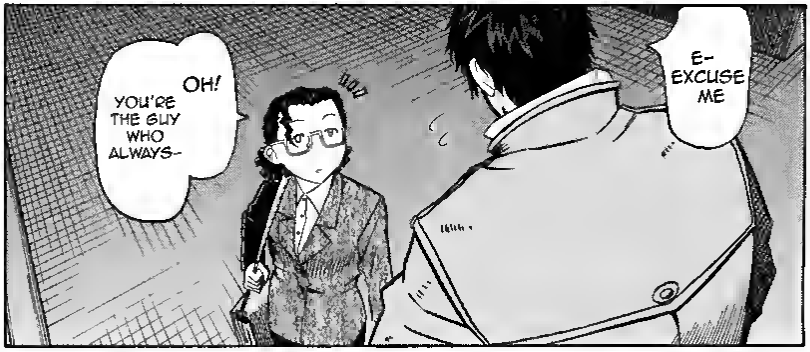

IF THIS DIDN'T TURN INTO SOMETHING TROUBLESOME...
IT WOULD BE NICE
SECTION2

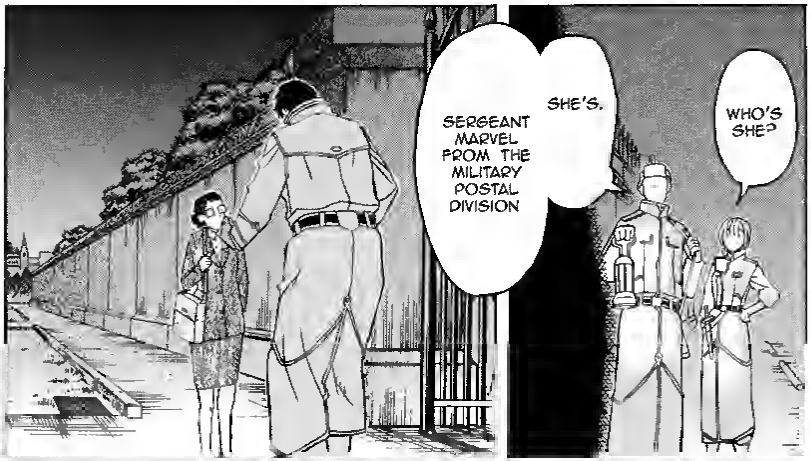
#19／END

PumpkinScissors

Interval


GOOD WORK.


E- EXCUSE ME
OH! YOU'RE THE GUY WHO ALWAYS-


WHO'S SHE?
SHE'S.
SERGEANT MARVEL FROM THE MILITARY POSTAL DIVISION

SHE'S THE ONE IN CHARGE OF PEOPLE WHO WANT TO SEND MONEY BACK.
Well, I was just wondering if the letter I sent got delivered.
WELL, AFTER YOU HANDED IT OFF TO ME, I GAVE IT TO A PRIVATE COMPANY TO DELIVER.
Hmm
SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAP-PENED TO IT AFTER THAT...
That's
IF YOU'RE THAT WORRIED ABOUT IT,
.....

WHY DON'T YOU JUST
GO BACK HOME FOR ONCE.

I...
can't do that...

I SEE.
WELL, I GUESS
I COULD TRY ASKING ABOUT IT THE NEXT TIME THERE'S A DELIVERY.

LET'S GO, CORPO-RAL
T-Thank you very much!
Y-Yes Sir!
I CAN'T GO BACK...
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD GO BACK...
See You Next Time!

KUUDERE

CREDITS

TL	NINGEN
TLC	AYASE
TYPESETTER	CRUX
CLEANER	VIXENKIBA

KUUDERE-SCANS!

COME VISIT US AT KUUDERE.COM